

Orientation to Precede Dorm Housing Lottery

By Beckett W. Sterner
and Lauren E. LeBon
NEWS EDITORS

The schedule for Orientation 2004 moves the freshmen housing lottery until after the end of Orientation, and also shortens the length of Orientation to four days.

The decision to move the housing lottery back was made primarily to separate the academically-focused orientation program from dormitory rush and the housing process, said Chairman of the Orientation Committee J. Kim Vandiver.

Vandiver said that the decision was a consequence of past experiences when both dormitories and fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups held rush during orientation. "The Orientation events just suffered," he said. "Rush dominated the week."

He said that there was no direct student input into the current schedule, but he and Associate Dean of Academic Resources Julie B. Norman have met in the past few days with representatives from the Undergraduate Association, ILTFP (a student activist group), and others.

"We've been getting student input for two years," said Vandiver, and Orientation is "still all a work in progress."

Dormitory Council President Emily E. Cofer '04 said that "next year we'd like to see some marked improvement in terms of consulting" with student government.

"We thought that the actual overall orientation material was overall very well organized," she

said, but "as it stands now, the ability for freshmen to go through an in-house rush is next to zero."

She said that Dormcon was in the process of consulting with the Undergraduate Association and Interfraternity Council, and that they were planning an official response to the schedule this week.

Timing of dorm rush not fixed

While many events during Orientation are fixed in the schedule, the current draft does not specify the exact timing of residence exploration or the housing lottery, although it requires they happen after the end of Orientation on Friday September 3, 2004.

The events, whose order in the schedule are fixed, are those which must occur before freshman registration or depend on the schedules of speakers, said Elizabeth C. Young, assistant director of enterprise services.

Specifically, freshman registration requires that each form be entered into a computer database by hand before the regular MIT Registration Day, which takes several days. This means that all advanced standing exams, learning group explorations, and the academic expo must happen before freshmen registration on Thursday, Sept. 2, Young said.

Other events, such as an alcohol awareness talk or women and minority events, have not yet been determined beyond having two evenings set aside during Orientation as place holders.

Orientation, Page 15

Student Missing Since Friday

By Christine R. Fry
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Daniel S. Mun '05, a biology major who lives at the Chi Phi fraternity, has been missing since early Friday morning, authorities say. The MIT Police are working with Boston and Cambridge police to search for Mun, said Senior Associate Dean Robert M. Randolph.

Mun, known to friends as Dong, "was last seen at his living group at 4:15 a.m." Friday by his roommate and friends, when he got out of bed to use the bathroom, said Lowery D. Duvall '05, the president of Chi Phi, a fraternity of about 45 students near the Prudential Center in Boston.

MIT has filed a missing person report with the MIT Police, the Massachusetts State Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Randolph said.

"The police are notified," he said. "We're in constant contact with hospitals and prisons and other places where missing people might show up."

"There will be a boat on the river to search the river and river banks," Randolph said. He said that river searches will likely occur today and periodically after.

Late last night, the MIT and Boston police said they could pro-



Daniel S. Mun '05 has been missing since early Friday morning.

vide no update on the search.

Chi Phi organizes search parties

Fraternity members became concerned when Mun did not return for

dinner Friday evening or later in the evening, Duvall said. This was out of character for Mun, he said.

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Vest Discusses Retirement and Future

By Keith J. Winstein
NEWS EDITOR

President Charles M. Vest announced Friday that he is stepping down after 13 years at MIT. The Tech sat down with him Monday morning in his office to talk about his presidency and the future

of MIT.

The Tech: What do you see as your legacy at MIT?

Charles M. Vest: That's such a hard question, but several things come to mind that I feel have been accomplished by MIT during this period. The one thing is really getting us on a vector to have real-world leadership in Brain and Cognitive Science: the establishment of the McGovern Institute and the Picower Center, and bringing the BCS department to the core of the School of Science.

I am extremely pleased that we were able to launch OpenCourseWare, because I believe this is going to prove to be an extremely important force and the beginning of a larger movement in higher edu-

cation worldwide.

I feel that I have helped to reestablish a good sense of partnership between the federal government and our research universities by maintaining a steady drumbeat of trips to Washington. ... And I also believe that the opportunity to support Professor Nancy Hopkins and her colleagues when they came out with the report on the status of senior women faculty in the School of Science and the whole national — and indeed international — avalanche that that unleashed, I felt very good about being part of that.

TT: What are your personal future plans?

Vest: Well, when my father

Vest, Page 16

Bus, T Fares To Rise on Jan. 3

MBTA Promises Better Security and Renovations with Money

By Jennifer T. Wang

Stock up on T tokens because the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority will be increasing fares on January 3, 2004. Bus fares will rise from \$0.75 to \$0.90, and subway fares will increase from \$1.00 to \$1.25.

MBTA spokesman Joe Pesaturo said that the fare increase was prompted by large discrepancies between revenue and expenses. "The T has a \$25 million gap between revenue and expenses, and a projected \$50 million gap between revenue and expenses for next year," said Pesaturo. "The fare increase will close the gap. Once we

have steady financial status, we can make improvements," he said.

Improvements will include the addition of more frequent bus and Green Line service, the rebuilding of the Charles / Massachusetts General Hospital Red Line station, and increased security.

The Central Transportation Planning Staff, an independent analysis group, predicted that the ridership would decrease by 3 percent after the fare increase. However, Pesaturo said that the group published a similar result after MBTA fare increases in 2000, which raised bus fares from \$0.60 to \$0.75 and

Fare Hike, Page 10

John Harbison: The Pope's Composer

By Jeremy Baskin
ARTS EDITOR

Call it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The pope called, and John Harbison listened. Well, not exactly, but it makes for a good story.

This January, Institute Professor and renowned composer John H. Harbison will be on a plane to Rome to hear the world premiere of "Abraham," a motet he recently composed for double choir and 13 brass instruments, at the Paul VI Auditorium in the Vatican City.

Among the audience of more than 7,000 will be His Holiness Pope John Paul II, as well as other religious leaders from Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, at a concert whose official purpose is "to promote the commitment to a peaceful coexistence among all the children of Abraham."

How exactly does one get a commission from the pope? Well, the story begins with the New York premiere of Harbison's "Requiem" last March. In the audience was one Gilbert Levine, who is dubbed by many as "the pope's conductor," as he has a relationship with Pope John Paul II dating back to Levine's days as music director of Poland's Krakow Philharmonic.

Levine was so impressed with Harbison's musi-



FRANK DABER—THE TECH

Institute Professor John H. Harbison has been commissioned to compose a short choral piece by Pope John Paul II for a concert whose theme involves reconciliation between different faiths.

cality and spirituality that in early September, he contacted Harbison's publisher with regard to a concert he is scheduled to conduct on Jan. 17 at the Vatican.

Harbison, Page 19

This is our last issue of the semester. *The Tech* will publish on Wednesdays during IAP, starting with Jan. 7, 2004. Good luck on final exams, and happy new year!



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Akshay Patil's nerd humor ends the semester. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll _exit(-1);

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WORLD & NATION

Supreme Court Appears Likely To Overturn Texas Man's Death

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Delma Banks Jr., a Texas death-row inmate, lay strapped to a gurney with barely 10 minutes to go before execution last March when the Supreme Court granted a stay in order to hear his claim that prosecutorial misconduct rendered his murder conviction and death sentence unconstitutional.

Banks, the longest-serving of 453 prisoners on Texas' death row, has had 15 execution dates in the nearly 24 years since he was sentenced to die at age 20 for killing a 16-year-old acquaintance and stealing his car. Given the justices' reactions on Monday to the arguments in his Supreme Court appeal, it is unlikely that he will face an execution date again in the near future.

The court appeared strongly inclined to set aside at least the death sentence, if not the conviction itself, in a case that death-penalty opponents have cited as an example not only of what can go wrong in a capital prosecution but also of what they deem the casual attitude that the federal appeals court with jurisdiction over Texas has adopted toward the capital cases it reviews.

U.S. Asks Taiwan to Avoid Voting Over China Issue

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Bush administration issued an unusually strong warning to Taiwan on Monday not to hold a referendum that could fuel the island's independence movement. The decision was intended to curb tensions in Asia and avoid a crisis there while U.S. forces are tied up elsewhere.

The warning came just a day before President Bush is to meet China's new prime minister, Wen Jiabao, at the White House.

All three parties — China, Taiwan and Washington — are engaged in a delicate dance that involves as much international diplomacy as domestic politics: Taiwan's leaders are up for reelection, the Bush administration needs Chinese help on issues like Korea and trade, and the Chinese would like Washington to take a harder line towards Taiwan.

Administration officials insisted that there was no change in the fundamental one-China policy, and, indeed, the State Department in recent weeks had said it opposed steps that could lead to independence for Taiwan.

But the warning on Monday was usually blunt and officials went further by stating that they were abandoning three decades of deliberate ambiguity about how far either China or Taiwan could go in their constant maneuverings for the upper hand on the question of reunification or independence.

New Jersey Hunters Kill Bears With Protesters in Their Sights

THE NEW YORK TIMES

VERNON, N.J.

Hundreds of hunters armed with shotguns and muskets tromped through a foot of snow on Monday in search of some of what could be as many as 3,200 black bears thought to be residing in northwest New Jersey.

The six-day hunt had been alternately hailed as an attempt to cull a bear population that had grown to dangerous proportions and lambasted as a cruel exercise in human vanity.

Protesters were also out in force on Monday as the fierce weekend snowstorm that struck the region threw an unexpected wrench into the hunt. Bears live in 41 states, 27 of which allow bear hunts.

But the issue in New Jersey, the nation's most densely populated state, has been the subject of a handful of lawsuits and a welter of controversy.

There was speculation early in the day that the snow would keep the bears in their dens, where hunters were forbidden by the rules of the hunt. But by 5 p.m., hunters had bagged 61 bears, the largest weighing 498 pounds, the state Department of Environmental Protection said.

WEATHER Record Snowfall

By Roberto F. Rondanelli

What are the chances of witnessing two of the biggest snowstorms in record in a period of 10 months? Although the final amount of snowfall at Logan Airport station was only 17.1 inches, many places around New England and the Boston metro area received significantly more, ranging from about 10 to 40 inches. Cambridge recorded about 2 feet of snow (50 cm), 5 inches more than for the President's Day snowstorm, which set an all-time record amount in Logan Airport of 27.6 inches. Considering the greater Boston area, this snowstorm is at least comparable in magnitude to the one in February. Even with the underestimated amount of snowfall measured in Logan, the snowstorm ranks second in amount of snow for the month of December since 1920.

In the forecast, temperatures will keep cool today and tonight. During Wednesday we expect some southerly winds advecting relatively warm air as a low pressure system approaches New England. The winter is still two weeks ahead and who knows what other surprises may bring. Enjoy it.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. High 38°F (3°C).

Tonight: Mostly clear. Low 26°F (-3°C).

Wednesday: Partly cloudy becoming increasingly cloudy in the afternoon, chance of rain on Wednesday night. High 42°F (6°C).

Thursday: Rainy, becoming clear late in the afternoon. Low 40°F (4°C), High 46°F (8°C).

With Large Ceremony, Bush Signs Medicare Bill Into Law

By David E. Rosenbaum

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

With the pageantry of a campaign kickoff rally, President Bush signed into law Monday the legislation giving the elderly prescription drug coverage under Medicare for the first time and changing the Medicare system so that private insurance companies will have a much bigger role.

The ceremony took place in one of the largest halls in Washington, filled with thousands of cheering supporters of Bush. More than a dozen lawmakers, nearly all of them Republicans, surrounded the president as he signed his name.

The elaborate bill-signing was the most visible evidence so far of how the president intends to make the Medicare measure an important issue in his re-election campaign.

The White House distributed to lobbyists, campaign donors, politicians and other luminaries 2,200 tickets to the ceremony in the historic DAR Constitution Hall, the ornate auditorium near the White House that was once the center of classical music in the capital. The public address system played John Philip Sousa marches as they filed through the doors.

An array of elderly people, many flown by the White House staff to Washington from around the country, sat grinning and applauding in bleacher seats behind the president, where they were in full view of the television cameras. Many of the women wore fire-engine red coats or tops, ensuring that people would notice this was a mixed audience, not all male like the one that grouped around the president last month when he signed the bill restricting some abortions.

Over the president's head was a

blue banner with a large "Rx" and the words "Keeping Our Promise to Seniors."

"You are here to witness the greatest advance in health care coverage for America's seniors since the founding of Medicare," Bush declared.

"Our government is finally bringing prescription drug coverage to the seniors of America," he said, and "giving older Americans better choices and more control over their health care."

Democrats immediately assailed the legislation. At a rally on Capitol Hill of labor leaders, representatives of the elderly and liberal lawmakers, the Democrats declared that the president's legislation was a sham that would destroy the venerable program. They maintained that theirs was the only party that could be trusted to protect Medicare.

"Who do you trust?" Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., shouted. "The HMO-coddling, drug company-loving, Medicare-destroying, Social Security-hating Bush administration? Or do you trust Democrats, who created Medicare and will fight with you to defend it — every day of every week of every year?"

In an interview later, Kennedy said he had been busy and had not watched the signing ceremony.

The Medicare program, created in 1965, is one of the gemstones of President Lyndon B. Johnson's Great Society. It provides health insurance for 40 million elderly and disabled Americans and is one of the most popular government programs ever developed.

Bush hopes that by fulfilling a promise he made in his 2000 campaign and securing the biggest new benefit since the program was enacted, at an estimated cost of \$400 bil-

lion over the next 10 years, he will at least neutralize a big political advantage Democrats have enjoyed for more than 35 years.

The tactic was similar to one used by President Bill Clinton before the 1996 election, when he diminished a traditional Republican political advantage on welfare by signing a law that required most poor people to work if they wanted government assistance.

Democrats are banking on the belief that the Bush strategy will backfire and that elderly people will become disenchanted when they learn that the new Medicare drug benefit, which will not become effective until 2006, is not nearly as generous as many had hoped. For instance, based on existing drug prices, someone with \$5,000 in annual drug expenses would have to bear 70 percent of the cost, with Medicare paying only 30 percent.

Bush emphasized these four elements of the massive legislation:

¶ Insurance coverage that for a premium of about \$35 a month, and after a deductible of \$250, will cover 75 percent of the cost of prescription drugs up to \$2,250 each year and 95 percent of drug costs after patients have spent \$3,600 out of pocket.

¶ "More health care choices," so that elderly people can choose to drop the conventional Medicare program and join private managed care plans subsidized by the government.

¶ Medicare coverage of routine physical examinations.

¶ Health savings accounts that would allow Americans to buy high-deductible health insurance and set money aside in tax-free savings accounts to meet medical expenses not paid for by their insurance.

Psychologist Says Sniper Was Indoctrinated by Father Figure

By James Dao

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHESAPEAKE, VA.

Months after he confessed to almost all of the Washington-area sniper shootings last year, Lee Boyd Malvo told a psychologist that his confession was a lie intended to protect the real shooter, John Allen Muhammad, the psychologist testified on Monday.

The psychologist, Dewey Cornell, said that Malvo, 18, so thoroughly idolized Muhammad, 42, and had been so completely indoctrinated by the older man, whom he called his father, that he was prepared to go to jail or even death row to shield Muhammad.

During weeks of "training" for the shootings that left 10 people dead in the Washington area, Muhammad told Malvo he must "self-destruct" if arrested, Cornell said. The younger man understood that to mean that he should "take full responsibilities for the crimes," Cornell said. "The most important thing in his life was to fulfill the mission and not disappoint his father," said Cornell, testifying for the defense.

In interviews with investigators in November 2002, Malvo took credit for firing all of the fatal shots, including one that killed Linda Franklin outside a Home Depot in Falls Church, Va. The teenager laughed about the crimes in taped remarks that were played for jurors last month.

Malvo is on trial in the killing of

Franklin, facing the death penalty if convicted. He has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity. A jury in Virginia Beach sentenced Muhammad to death last month for the killing of Dean Meyers in Manassas, Va.

Cornell testified that Malvo recanted his confession after several months in jail, when he began to break free of Muhammad's sway. At that time, he said, Malvo told him he had served as a spotter in the Franklin shooting, using and giving Muhammad the green light to shoot.

During their conversations, Malvo took credit for only one shooting, that of a bus driver in Montgomery County, Cornell said.

Cornell was the latest of several defense mental health experts whose testimony was intended to convince jurors that Malvo was so in thrall to Muhammad that he could not make independent moral judgments.

Cornell, who met with Malvo 21 times and interviewed him for 54 hours, testified that he believed Malvo suffered from a mental illness at the time of the crimes, making it impossible for him to tell right from wrong.

Under questioning from Craig S. Cooley, one of Malvo's lawyers, Cornell gave one of the most detailed descriptions yet of Malvo's view on the evolution of the sniper plot. The psychologist said Malvo told him that Muhammad had begun training him for an unspecified mission after Muhammad's former wife gained sole custody of their three children in late 2001.

"He understood he was being trained to do something to get the children back," Cornell testified.

That training included learning how to use high-powered rifles, playing "stalking games" on shooting ranges, viewing sniper training videos, playing sniper-style video games and watching violent war movies. Cornell compared the training to the indoctrination that child soldiers in Africa experience.

Once a firm but warm father figure, Muhammad increasingly became a drill sergeant, coaching Malvo to "not let himself have feelings" and to act like a "soldier on a mission," Cornell testified.

To give jurors a taste of the so-called indoctrination, Cooley showed the jurors snippets from video games and the film "The Matrix," which he said Malvo watched more than 100 times, once just before the Franklin shooting.

Muhammad also taught Malvo his brand of black nationalism drawn from the teachings of the Nation of Islam, Cornell said. He required Malvo to read speeches by black separatist leaders and even played recordings of those speeches to Malvo while he slept.

The core of that philosophy taught that white people were "devils" who had enslaved black people, making violent rebellion and the killing of innocents morally acceptable, Cornell said. Muhammad also said he wanted to extort \$10 million from the government so he could create a utopian community.

United Russia Election Victory Criticized, Called Undemocratic

By Steven Lee Myers

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

International observers on Monday criticized Russia's parliamentary elections as a step backward in the country's democratic transition, only moments after President Vladimir Putin described them as "free, honest, open and democratic."

United Russia, the party defined almost entirely by its fealty to Putin, swept to overwhelming victory on Sunday after benefiting, the observers said, from fawning coverage on state television and official support at all levels of government. Putin's party crushed the Communists and ousted all but a handful of liberals from Parliament, capturing

the most votes of any party in any election since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Turnout was a low 56 percent.

Two groups that sent election observers, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said in a report that the results also reflected "the extensive use of the state apparatus and media favoritism to benefit the largest pro-presidential party."

The report, based on the findings of 500 observers, offered some of the harshest criticism yet of Russian elections, saying the vote called "into question Russia's willingness to move towards European standards for democratic elections."

The president of the OSCE Par-

liamentary Assembly, Bruce George, said at a news conference in Moscow that the vote represented a "regression in the democratization process." He also reported "blatant fraud" in Bashkortostan Republic, in the southern Urals, and "irregularities" in Siberia and the Far East.

The criticism is not likely to dent the exercise of Putin's power. Russia, which is a member of the OSCE, has ignored the group's protests over its conduct in Chechnya.

Indeed, Putin interpreted the results as a clear validation of the course he has set in the four years since he became president, despite steps viewed here and abroad as autocratic.

Gore Will Announce Endorsement Of Dean for President, Aides Say

By Adam Nagourney

and Jodi Wilgoren

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Al Gore has decided to endorse Howard Dean for president, aides to the men said Monday, a move that rocked the Democratic presidential field and hastened Dean's evolution from a long-shot maverick to a leading candidate of the Democratic establishment.

Gore will announce his endorsement of Dean on Tuesday morning at events in Harlem, New York, and in Iowa, Democrats close to both men said. The decision by Gore, the former vice president who opened the floodgates to this crowded Democratic nomination contest by declaring last December that he

would not run again, stunned Democrats and emboldened the Dean campaign, which chartered three jets to carry Dean, Gore and dozens of reporters to Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"This is huge," said Donna Brazile, who was Gore's campaign manager in 2000. "It gives Dean what Dean has been missing most: stature. Gore is a major-league insider, somebody with enormous credibility that Democrats respect, who can rally the grass roots and who's been speaking very strongly in the last few months about the direction he wants to take the country."

Gerald McEntee, the president of the municipal workers union, which endorsed Dean last month,

said: "I think this may be the beginning of the end for the other candidates. I don't know how they stop him."

Gore's decision put him in the odd position of supporting an insurgent candidate who has built his campaign attacking the centrist Democratic positions that the former vice president has espoused for two decades.

It also came as a devastating surprise to Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, D-Conn., who was Gore's running mate in the disputed 2000 election. Lieberman delayed entering the 2004 race until he was sure Gore would not run, a show of courtesy to Gore that Democrats later blamed for Lieberman's slow start in the race.

Humanity? Maybe It's In the Wiring

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Neuroscientists have given up looking for the seat of the soul, but they are still seeking what may be special about human brains, what it is that provides the basis for a level of self-awareness and complex emotions unlike those of other animals.

Most recently they have been investigating circuitry rather than specific locations, looking at pathways and connections that are central in creating social emotions, a moral sense, even the feeling of free will.

There are specialized neurons at work, as well — large, cigar-shaped cells called spindle cells.

The only other animals known to have such cells are the great apes. These neurons are exceptionally rich in filaments. And they appear to broadcast socially relevant signals all over the brain.

The body, it turns out, is as important as the brain. Dr. Antonio Damasio, a neurologist at the University of Iowa Medical Center and the author of the book "Looking for Spinoza: Joy, Sorrow and the Feeling Brain," has pioneered the argument that emotions and feelings are linked to brain structures that map the body. From human social emotions, he said, both morality and reason have grown.

Secondhand Smoke May Harm Family Pets, Too

THE NEW YORK TIMES

A small but growing body of research suggests that secondhand cigarette smoke, which has been shown to harm humans, may harm pets, too.

Lung cancer is rare in dogs: Only about one dog of 25,000 gets it each year, according to one study. But a 1992 study published in the American Journal of Epidemiology of 51 dogs with lung cancer and 83 dogs with other cancers found that dogs in smoking households had a 60 percent greater risk of lung cancer.

The risk was even higher for dogs with short or medium-size noses: "everything from pugs to poodles," said the chief author, Dr. John S. Reif, a professor of environmental health at Colorado State University.

A 1998 study, published in the same journal, of 481 dogs with cancer showed that long-nosed dogs like collies and wolfhounds were twice as likely to get nasal cancer if they lived with smokers. Reif, who also led this study, speculated that carcinogens became trapped in their nasal passages.

In a study published in the same journal last year, veterinarians from the Tufts University veterinary school found that cats whose owners smoked were three times as likely to develop lymphoma.

Lymphoma is the most common cat cancer. The risks are greater, the study found, if the cat has lived in a smoking household for five years, and greater still if two smokers live there.

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Letters To The Editor

Questioning Vest

Dear Editor:

On Friday morning, news of President Vest's resignation broke to the world. For many MIT alumnae and alumni, word came via an e-mail from Beth Garvin, executive VP and CEO of the MIT Alumni Association. Beth invited us to take great pride in our school's accomplishments and influence on the world while Chuck Vest has been at the helm. Indeed, we can, and I certainly do. However, one thing we cannot take pride in is Dr. Vest's abandonment of the rights and responsibilities of students as legal adults. Dr. Vest's drive to destroy the independent living group system (and by that I specifically mean all ILGs, of which fraternities are but a subset) is rooted in politics, fear, and greed, not a dedication to the mental and educational well-being of MIT's students. Catalyzed by Scott Krueger's death, the notion that individuals are responsible for their own successes and failures — a notion that has been a foundation for the heights to which MIT and its scholars have soared — has devolved under Dr. Vest's tenure into a morass of in loco parentis that mirrors, rather than challenges, the dismal legal riptide of our society.

MIT's independent living group system gave those students who wanted it a wide-ranging freedom to live as they pleased in one of the world's great cities, and gave those students who desired it an intimate community of their peers and colleagues, never more than a few minutes' walk away. Now, purportedly for the purpose of "building community," Dr. Vest has simultaneously eliminated choice and made MIT take new responsibility for the consequences. By requiring freshmen to live on campus supposedly because MIT is "safer" and because they are supposedly incapable of handling the decision to live elsewhere, MIT now has to explain itself when the theory is proven flawed. To wit: the tragic death of Elizabeth Shin in 2000.

Indeed, Friday's article in *The New York Times* about Dr. Vest's resignation (<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/12/05/education/>

05CND-MIT.html) cuts right to the core:

"He also dealt with enduring problems of student life like drinking and mental health. The death of a freshman, Scott Krueger, from an overdose of alcohol in 1997 after a fraternity hazing, highlighted the alienation many students felt at the university, largely because so many had lived in fraternities and independent houses around Boston and Cambridge, Mass., since the institute was chartered in 1861."

The thesis — in particular, the thesis as seen by international media at a pivotal moment in Chuck Vest's career — is flawed, and everything that flows from it is suspect. In order to handle this "alienation," we need to dismantle a system of communities that for generations have let students feel like they have finally come home. We had to destroy the village in order to save it. Perversely, this purported cure for alienation has resulted in some of the most profound antagonism and distrust between MIT and its students in recent memory.

At this point, one can only hope that MIT's next chief executive will realize the error of his predecessor's ways, and make a sincere effort to build new bridges to the students, rather than razing them. Foremost, this requires that students be respected as free-thinking individuals: so that at MIT they learn not just how to choose their own path forward, but also when to defy the path and step off into the great unknown.

Kevin McCormick '99

Diversity of Opinion

This letter was co-signed by 43 other MIT community members.

Dear Editor:

For a newspaper bent on supporting diversity, it is ironic that *The Tech* would state an "official opinion" (see Opinion Policy) strongly supporting same-sex marriage and leave so little room for diversity of opinion on this subject (see "Victory for Gay Marriage," Dec. 2). We would like to point out that a significant portion of the MIT community believes strongly in pre-

serving the traditional definition of marriage.

Just two days before *The Tech* editorial was printed, *The Boston Globe* published an article about religion at Harvard and MIT stating that "there are 15 evangelical Christian fellowship groups at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology alone... Hundreds of MIT students are involved in these fellowships — blacks, whites, Hispanics, and Asians" ("God on the Quad," Dec. 30). The article also explained that evangelical Christians believe only in traditional marriage between a man and a woman. This is not to mention the many other religious and secular groups and individuals on campus who likewise support traditional marriage.

Please understand that by championing the cause of one group on campus, you are marginalizing the religions and core belief systems of other MIT groups. In the spirit of MIT's "accepting community" to which you refer, we urge *The Tech* to take a more balanced and representative approach to this issue.

Cristie Charles
MIT Affiliate

From the editor in chief: The purpose of The Tech's editorial board, like at most newspapers, is to debate topics of relevance to the readership and decide on an opinion. That gay marriage should be allowed is indeed our editorial board's opinion.

But we do not suggest that those who differ with us are illegitimate players in the debate. We are happy to have a vibrant debate on campus — we love being the medium of campus debate, and the more well-reasoned disagreement there is, the more columns we can have on our op-ed pages. Feel free to contribute your own.

I want to stress that no news editor or reporter participates in the editorial board. We are very serious about that separation.

Our editorials are not supposed to influence our news coverage, and we enforce this by forbidding opinion staff to write news articles and vice versa. (I am the sole, rare, exception.)

Opinion Policy

Editorials are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, opinion editor, a senior editor, and a photography editor.

Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted. *The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be

given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

The Tech's Ombudsman, reachable by e-mail at ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu, serves as the liaison between *The Tech* and its readers. From time to time, the Ombudsman writes an independent column reflecting the complaints, questions, and concerns of the readership.

To Reach Us

The Tech's telephone number is (617) 253-1541. E-mail is the easiest way to reach any member of our staff. If you are unsure whom to contact, send mail to general@the-tech.mit.edu, and it will be directed to the appropriate person. Please send press releases, requests for coverage, and information about errors that call for correction to news@the-tech.mit.edu. Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. *The Tech* can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://the-tech.mit.edu>.

Erratum

An article Friday ["Vest to Announce Retirement"] referred incorrectly to a construction project begun under President Charles M. Vest. It is the McGovern Institute for Brain Research, not the McGovern Center.

The article also omitted a credit. Jennifer Krishnan and Frank Dabek contributed to its reporting.

Another Friday article ["Harvard Study Finds Binge Drinking less Frequent on Diverse Campuses"] misspelled the reporter's surname. She is Megan Ogilvie, not Oglivie.

Supporting Graduate Student Health Care

Jamil R. Abo-Shaeer

Over the past few years the Institute has tightened its belt to compensate for the declining economy. Budgetary concerns affect everyone, from students to faculty to staff. Until the economy recovers we must all learn to make do with less, be that lab equipment, building maintenance and, in some cases, salary. Bearing this in mind, I am writing this letter to voice my community's concern about the way that the Institute is treating its graduate students during these lean years.

Based on recent events, the general sentiment among graduate students is that the administration's cutbacks disproportionately target those with the least. During the past two years we have seen a substantial decrease in our disposable income. This was mostly brought about by a 100 percent increase (60 percent this past March) in the cost of mandatory health insurance, the Student Life Fee, and escalating rent in both on- and off-campus housing. In addition to the skyrocketing cost of health insurance, we've seen a dramatic reduction in benefits. These include large cuts in OB-GYN services, reduction in mental health benefits, large co-payments for many medical procedures, and a 50 percent increase in prescription drug co-payments.

According to the Institute's own cost of living analysis, the annual disposable income for graduate students has plummeted by over \$3,000 during the last two years. Provost Brown has already stated that the cost of health care is expected to increase again next year, with graduate students likely to absorb the extra cost. It is unfair to so drastically reduce the level of support for students that came to MIT with the expectation that they will be able to meet their expenses over the next five to six years. The situation is especially grave for married and international students. Annual family health insurance costs several thousand dollars, and now far exceeds that of several of our peer institutions. Government grants and loans are unavailable to international students, who comprise nearly 40 percent of graduate student population.

It is ironic that the Institute's treatment of its graduate students seems to run counter to recent actions taken by peer institutions (Harvard, Yale, Berkeley, Stanford, and Caltech), where steps have been taken toward improving the quality of life for graduate students. Examples include increased stipends (without additional fees or health care increase), fully subsidized medical and dental care, and housing subsidies. As a leader in education, we

hope MIT will join its peer institutions by giving similar treatment to its graduate students. In failing to do so, the Institute will risk its status as a premier academic institution, since it depends so heavily on graduate students to conduct its research.

In light of these events, student groups have formed to lobby their department chairs to ease the burden of increased costs. Several departments have been receptive to the needs of their students, increasing student stipends significantly. Unfortunately, the departments can only partially offset the increase in the cost of living. It is clear that this is an Institute-wide problem and, therefore, it must be addressed at the Institute level. My hope is that recent cutbacks to our standard of living mostly result from our weak voice to the administration. If these disjointed student groups can unite under the umbrella of a common cause, we will be able to pressure the administration to address our concerns.

To this end, I ask you to join us in unifying the graduate student community behind the demand for subsidized health care. The cost of such a subsidy would constitute less than one percent of MIT's annual budget. This is far less than the over-budget costs that MIT has paid for some of its recent building projects. The impact on the MIT community, however, would be far more significant.

In addition to graduate students, we hope to gain the support of the entire MIT community, professors, undergraduates, and administrative staff. If you share our concern about graduate student life at MIT, we ask that you sign our online petition located at <http://petition.mit.edu>. At this site you will also find detailed information about the fight for parity with our peer institutions. Already, in our infancy, we have collected over 1,000 signatures.

For those of you interested in helping out, there are a number of things you can do. We ask that everyone signing the petition encourage his or her classmates, friends, and advisers to also sign. Discuss this matter with your departmental student organization (or organize a group if you don't have one). Arrange to meet with your department chairs to let them know that the decline in quality of life is your major concern. You can also visit the site to download a poster for your office door or a paper petition to collect signatures. Finally, we can always use more help and we encourage you to join us at meetings. Please, let your voice be heard. Any questions, concerns, or to volunteer please e-mail petition@mit.edu.

Jamil R. Abo-Shaeer is a graduate student in the Department of Physics.

A Different Idea For Presidential Selection

Jason H. Wasfy

MIT's creative innovation has always set the Institute apart. From the pioneering engineering work in the 1940s that helped the U.S. military defeat the Nazis, to the bold OpenCourseWare initiative that will help bridge the technology gap between rich nations and poor ones, to the necessary admission a few years ago that MIT has historically discriminated against female scientists, and now needs to lead the drive toward full gender equality in American science — innovation always has pushed MIT to the forefront of teaching, science policy, and research.

So now that Chuck Vest has decided to retire, how can we choose a new president to ensure that MIT will continue to lead for decades to come?

Well, the answer might be a little more creative innovation, MIT-style. The implicit assumption behind many of MIT's choices of provosts and presidents in the past has been that presidents should be engineers, and provosts should be scientists. The Institute hasn't always followed that rule (the current provost, Bob Brown, is a chemical engineer), but many have considered leadership from scientists and engineers essential for the world's premiere institution of technology. But with this important decision in front of us now, challenging traditional assumptions will prove crucial once again.

So here's an idea. Philip Khoury, a historian, and the current dean of MIT's school of humanities, arts, and social sciences, should become the next president of MIT. Khoury has overseen a bold expansion of humanities at MIT — notably, in working to organize and implement the \$75 million school of humanities, arts, and social sciences Kenan Sahin Fund, which at the time represented the greater portion of the largest gift ever to MIT. Much of the money in the Kenan Sahin Fund will go to support educational initiatives and graduate student fellowships. Khoury has worked to support students in the context of a university that too often shoves student priorities aside for other institutional missions.

And that certainly was not the first time that Khoury has worked hard on behalf of student interests. Khoury seems to have a keen sense for how much the gulf between faculty and students threatens educational quality at the Institute. Almost 10 years ago now, Khoury led the establishment of the Burchard Scholars program, which con-

tributes serious money to fostering more intimate connections between faculty and undergraduate students.

These are just a couple of examples of how Khoury understands that at a great research institution, innovation in education and innovation in research can — and, indeed, must — go hand in hand. That happens, for example, when top-notch faculty discuss their research with enthusiastic undergraduate Burchard scholars.

If you're still not convinced that a social scientist should lead MIT, then consider the case of MIT's third president, Francis Amasa Walker. Before coming to MIT in 1881, Walker was professor of political economy and history at Yale. So a social scientist has served as president of MIT before. And although Khoury has served as a forceful champion of humanities, arts, and social sciences at MIT, he understands the centrality of technology to MIT's mission.

"The principal role of history and the other humanities disciplines at MIT," Khoury said last year, "is to contribute to the preparation of tomorrow's leaders for all walks of life and mainly for careers in science, technology and management. These future leaders require at least as much rigorous training in the qualitative, synthetic, and contextual methods learned in the humanities as they do in the quantitative analysis, logic, and problem-solving learned in the sciences and engineering."

This represents not only a clear understanding of the importance of science and technology at MIT, but a sophisticated and subtle appreciation for the social implications of science and technology. And, crucially, it represents recognition that students are central to MIT, and that good research should not squelch educational initiatives.

Just to make sure that no one thinks Khoury has put me up to this, I have no idea if he'd be interested in the position. He'll probably get mad at me for writing this. And I suspect he'd never consider himself a candidate for the position. But I hope that both Khoury and MIT will opt for creative innovation in selecting the new president — casting aside the implicit assumption that an engineer or a scientist must lead the Institute. What's absolutely essential is that the new president understands the importance of education to MIT's mission, and appreciates MIT's profound ability to drive new innovations in science and technology in the context of a highly dynamic global society.

Jason H. Wasfy '01 is a student at Harvard Medical School.

Suspicious Timing on Human Rights Day

Tim Suen and Sonya Huang

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to the United States, which takes place this week and includes a lecture at Harvard tomorrow morning, is no small matter. Wen is the highest-ranking Chinese official to visit the United States since Hu Jintao became President of China in March. The most pressing concerns on his agenda involve the sovereignty of Taiwan. Specifically, he wants the White House to declare that it opposes the independence of Taiwan and any efforts the government of Taiwan might take in that direction. Rather, China maintains that it has the right to "regain" control of this "renegade province" by force if necessary. This attitude toward Taiwan deeply disturbs Taiwanese Americans and should unnerve people of democratic nations worldwide.

Wen's assertion that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China is unsettling on several counts. First, it is historically inaccurate. Second, no communist nation has a reasonable claim to a developed and thriving democracy. Third, in its interactions with Taiwan, China has proven itself to be an irresponsible caretaker. Fourth, China continues using threats of violence to intimidate the Taiwanese people and deny them their right to self-determination.

Taiwan has never been ruled by the People's Republic of China and has not been a

province of China for over a hundred years. After being occupied by the Dutch in the 1600s, Taiwan remained a backwater territory that received little imperial attention for over 200 years. It was not until 1887 that Qing officials declared Taiwan a province of their empire. Only eight years later, however, China ceded Taiwan to Japan after losing the Sino-Japanese war. Taiwan then became a colony of Japan until the end of World War II. When the Chinese Nationalists lost the civil war in 1949, they fled to Taiwan and established control of the island. Thus, Taiwan's government, military, and economy have been separate from those of China since 1895.

The difference between the two is that Taiwan has evolved into one of the most advanced democracies in Asia while China not only remains undemocratic but also shows aversion to any attempts towards democracy under its jurisdiction. While Taiwan institutes progressive reforms, such as the Gender Equality Labor Law, China continues to refuse its citizens their freedom of expression and religion, cracking down on political activists and spiritual groups such as the Falun Gong. Chinese oppression of the East Turkestani has worsened and treatment of the Tibetans remains reprehensible. Not only has the government of China repeatedly violated the basic human rights of its inhabitants, but it has also made a point of ensuring that democracy does not go unmolested. Only a few

years after China's accession of Hong Kong, Chinese officials enacted measures against existing democratic programs, such as popular elections in Hong Kong.

The Chinese government has also interfered repeatedly with the democratic process in Taiwan. China ran military exercises along the coast in an effort to intimidate voters during Taiwan's first direct presidential election in 1996 and repeatedly threatened to use force during the 2000 polls. As Taiwan prepares for its next presidential elections in 2004, China seems eager to replicate its past behavior. Recent referendum laws allowing the people of Taiwan to vote on constitutional and other public policy changes have already elicited threats of violence from Beijing. In fact, laws enabling the Taiwanese to decide their own future have so enraged Chinese authorities that they claim willingness to wage war without regard to the economy and people of China.

Nor has China convinced us that it is capable of managing affairs beyond its corporate hubs in Shanghai and Beijing. When the 1999 earthquake claimed the lives and homes of thousands in Taiwan, the Chinese government impeded relief efforts from Red Cross international, insisting that Taiwan's disaster relief was China's own concern. Yet the aid that Taiwan finally received from China, long delayed by bureaucratic processes, was not even comparable to the independent donations. This scenario was repeated when SARS struck the

region early this year. Many lives were lost and the epidemic lasted months longer than it should have, when China prevented World Health Organization from dispatching assistants to Taiwan. China's insistence on prioritizing political nomenclature above human lives casts serious doubt on the possibility of improving living conditions in any region it seeks to claim.

What remains unclear, amid heated debates and military tension, are the reasons behind China's persistent need to stake political claim over Taiwan. Rather than demonstrating any foreseeable benefits that might result from the unification of China and Taiwan, China argues that the only alternative would be disrupting "peace" and "stability" of the Asia-Pacific region. Yet the threat to regional stability will not be the result of any initiatives Taiwan pursues toward independence per se, but the attack that China promises in response to such initiatives. Instead of allowing peaceful means of resolution, China would rather resort to violence to ensure an outcome in its favor. The 500 ballistic missiles aimed directly at Taiwan today is just one of China's tactics to distort the prospect of independence.

On the eve of World Human Rights Day and Premier Wen's visit to Harvard, let us consider the freedoms we take for granted and stand up to preserve the rights of those around the world.

Tim Suen and Sonya Huang are members of the class of 2005.



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The Ombudsman

When *The Tech* Runs Pictures of Students on Roofs

John A. Hawkinson

I dug myself in a hole on this one and got snowed in. My Sept. 23 column, encouraged you to "stay tuned for some hacking commentary," and now this is last issue of the term. I apologize; the subject was relatively complicated and the victim of much procrastination on my part.

From time-to-time, *The Tech* covers activities on campus that can fall under the general umbrella of "hacking"—technically illicit (meaning against the rules), though generally not illegal, happenings that occur on campus, as part of the the Institute's tradition of hacks. The IHTFP Hack Gallery (<http://hacks.mit.edu>) defines a hack as a "clever, benign, and 'ethical' prank or practical joke, which is both challenging for the perpetrators and amusing to the MIT community (and sometimes even the rest of the world!)."

In this column, I'm looking also at something more broad than just hacks: activities performed by hackers, with a focus on students on Institute roofs.

The Tech's coverage of these activities tends to be primarily in photographs, though there are other examples, like Eun J. Lee's Aug. 28 story about Orange Tours ["Into MIT's Hidden Places: Follow the Orange Florey"].

Judgement of what to print

When *The Tech* printed photographs of nominally illicit dormitory rush activities, I heard reader questions asking why those photographs were printed. Some readers felt that the photographs drew uncomfortable scrutiny to those depicted. They wondered why *The Tech* had singled them out.

When a pirate flag appeared on the Great Dome in October, some were disappointed that the only photo in *The Tech* ran deep inside, on page 16.

In the first case, I talked to the photographers and editors involved in selection, and they seemed surprised at the question. In their judgements, photographers had submitted quality photographs and they had selected the best and newsworthy photographs to run, as they normally would. In the second case, the photo editors didn't think the photo was very good.

Photographer Peter R. Russo took more than one of the photos that raised concerns.

When I discussed them with him, he said that he took photos of interesting activities, and that he made no special effort to concen-

trate on activities that might raise student concern if published.

date), and mentioned the administration was talking with ZBT. Carol Orme-Johnson, assistant dean for student discipline, inquired of *The Tech* how the people in the photo were identified as ZBT members (the answer: by their conspicuous fraternity lettering). I spoke to her in early October, and she said, "It's my job to investigate incidents that go on across campus." When asked what effect the photograph could have, she said, "It's evidence, it is not proof. It's not conclusive proof of guilt. It could be rebutted."

I also talked to John DiFava, chief of the campus police. DiFava confirmed that the police weren't involved, but that he felt that it would be problematic to use a newspaper photograph to identify students. I got the sense he felt it was a question of degree, and that the police might use such a photograph to identify individuals if a serious crime were at issue.

I interviewed Samuel J. Keyser, a former dean who has written and spoken extensively on the subject of hacking at MIT. Keyser points out to me that none of the photographs (or the article) I was concerned about were really about "hacks." They were all about activities tangential or perhaps pertinent to the hacker subculture, but not hacks themselves.

Keyser also points out that "hackers are between a rock and a hard place. What's the point if there's no publicity? What's the point if you can't control it?" A "true hacker" has little to fear from publicity, as he or she never gets caught.

The Tech does not shield the community

I think it's important to understand (at least, if you're a person who might be photographed, or written about, or otherwise covered) that *The Tech* cannot be expected to kill a photograph or a story out of a desire to "protect" or "shield" students from repercussions.

If *The Tech* were to be complicit in a "cover up" of some sort, it would look

extremely bad for the staff involved. Keyser describes the paper's duty as "to cover the news, and to do it honestly and truthfully"; I think he hits the point head-on.

Student journalists take their craft seriously, and in such a case their reputation would be damaged. Readers would always have to wonder how much information *The Tech* has that we have chosen not to print.

Some people have asked me if *The Tech's* journalists are students first or journalists first. It's an uncomfortable question. Everyone has divided loyalties, but I think expectation of the public needs to be that *The Tech's* journalists are journalists. (It's also important to understand that all journalists need to have an idea of the sense of damage they can do. That to publish facts can have consequences, and that those consequences need to be considered.)

Duty of the editors

I hope I don't contradict myself when I say that I think the editors do need to remember to think carefully about the ramifications of photographs they publish. I don't think wrong decisions were made, but I do think process by which they were made may have been too rapid.

Roof fines rumors

I've heard rumors of the roof access fine going up (from \$50 to \$500) in response to the ZBT photo. Keyser reminded me that *The Tech's* ZBT photo pales in comparison to far more serious incidents in the past. For instance, in 1999 a student fell 96 feet down an E52 chimney ["Freshman Injured in Fall From Rooftop"; Nov. 30, 1999]. If *The Tech's* photograph has anything to do with fine increases, I suspect it's the straw that broke the camel's back.

Ombudsman hangs on by a thin thread

At Saturday's meeting of the Managing Board, I was reelected to the position of Ombudsman by one vote for Volume 124 of *The Tech*, from February 2004 through January 2005. If, in fact, dissent about my writing within the paper is a good sign, I suppose I've achieved the maximum sustainable level.

The New York Times' Public Editor published his first column on Sunday. I look forward to seeing how he manages the job.

The Tech's Ombudsman welcomes your feedback, to ombudsman@the-tech.mit.edu. His opinions are his own.



DANIEL BERSAK—THE TECH

Photographer and future photo editor Peter R. Russo G.

trate on activities that might raise student concern if published.

The ZBT dome photo

On Sept. 16, *The Tech* ran a photograph of a Zeta Beta Tau fraternity ceremony which took place atop the little dome in broad daylight. The photograph was taken from *The Tech's* office. No one would call it a hack, but I've heard it suggested that printing the photograph might have repercussions on hackers (as well as on ZBT).

The photo was newsworthy (in my view), and people were on the dome for a long time (around 30 minutes). A fair number of people noticed and heard about the activity on the dome.

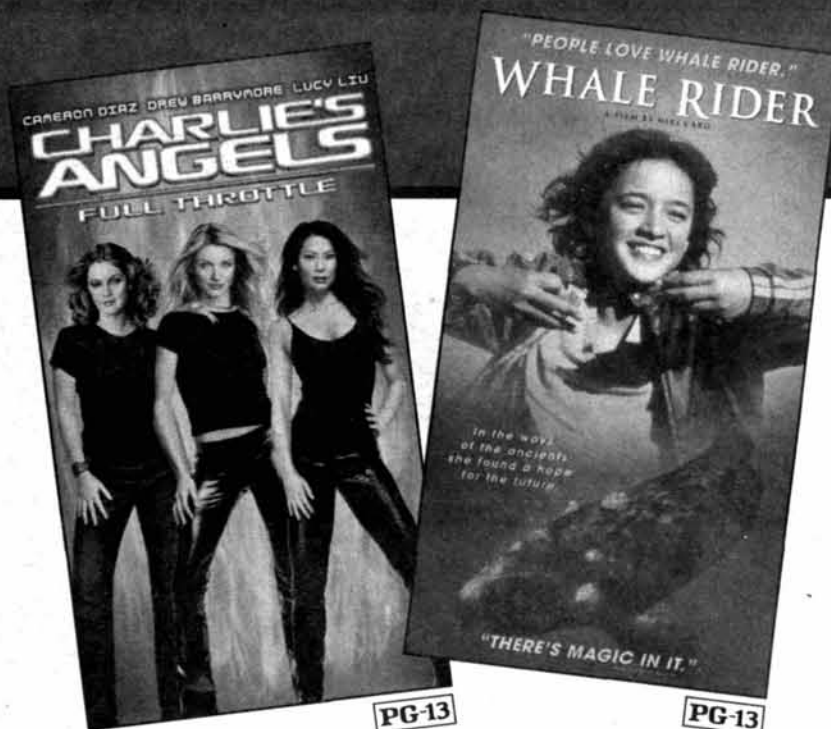
I talked to Arthur Fitzmaurice, ZBT's president, shortly after. He was concerned about repercussions (there have been none to

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Heater Causes Frat Fire

By Ray C. He
STAFF REPORTER

A fire broke out at Theta Xi fraternity at 64 Bay State Road, last Wednesday, according to the MIT Police incident log.

David N. Rogers, associate dean of fraternities, sororities, and independent living groups, was notified of the fire and went to the scene to assess the situation. The fire "was caused by a space heater," Rogers said.

"As soon as the fire caught, people ran in with fire extinguishers. There was still a lot of smoke afterwards," said Aaron H. Bell '06, a member of Theta Xi.

The fire itself causes little damage. "The majority of the damage was water damage from the sprinklers after the fire was put out," Bell said.

"There was no fire damage and little water damage," said Hua-Yu S. Cherng '05, president of Theta Xi.

"The sprinklers are fixed and refilled; the electrical work was rechecked and they were all fine to move back into the house," Rogers said.

Fires in FSILGs are not a common occurrence. "This is the first one I've been to," said Rogers. "I've been here three years and this is the first time I've dealt with one."

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MBTA Will Allow Amplified Music in Subway

Trumpets and Drums Still Banned; Musicians Limited to Certain Performance Areas

By Jenny Zhang
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Following widespread public opposition, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority has modified its Subway Performers Program Policy to allow for the use of amplifiers at a limited decibel level rather than banning them altogether.

Massachusetts Senator Jarrett T. Barrios had heard complaints from his constituents about the ban on amplifiers and spoke with Michael H. Mulhern, the general manager of the MBTA, who agreed to delay the ban for a week to allow further discussion, said Barrios's press representative, Colin Durrant.

The MBTA and musicians then reached a compromise that permits the use of amplifiers at limited volumes, said MBTA spokesperson Lydia Rivera. "We spoke to musicians, the musician's guild, commuters, and local officials," she said.

Other rules, including the ban on trumpets, requirement that musicians obtain photo permits, and limitation of performance areas to MBTA-designated locations, still stand. The policy is online at http://www.mbta.com/business_t/subwayperformer.asp.

The new rules were implemented yesterday; however, musicians will have until the end of the year to obtain their permits, according to a Dec. 4 article by *The Boston Globe*.

Policy limits sound, requires ID

The new policy limits music sound level to 80 decibels at 25 feet away, and requires that musicians "obtain a photo permit from the MBTA for a fee of \$25.00 prior to any performances." Each permit lasts for a year, at which time the performer must obtain a new one. "ID will be routinely checked," said Rivera.



Pumla Bhungane sings to music from a CD at South Station. Bhungane has been singing at T stations for four years. He is able to continue singing after the MBTA decided to allow amplifiers for musicians.

Musicians are also limited to MBTA-designated performance areas, indicated by signs on the subway station walls. Brian James, a vocalist and guitarist who has been a subway musician for two years, said that some of the designated locations are unreasonable because "nobody stands there," and that would cut deeply into musician earnings.

Durrant said that subway musicians may appeal to the MBTA to change or add designated performance areas.

The policy also bans "trumpets or trumpet-like instruments, and drums, as they are not suitable for the subway environment." The ban does not apply to trombones, saxophones, tubas, baritones, and French

horns. "There weren't many trumpets and drums" to begin with, Rivera said.

The restrictions on subway musicians were a result of post-September 11 recommendations for increasing subway safety, Rivera said. There were concerns that the musicians were drowning out announcements and blocking traffic. She said that the MBTA has no plans to change the performers policy again.

Busking crucial, musician says

Subway performance, also known as busking, can be very important to a musician's career and financial situation, James said.

When he received the letter in mid-November from the MBTA announcing that amplifiers would be banned, he was very concerned. "It was nerve-racking to not know where my income would come from," he said. "People tell me to get a real job, but this is a real job. I was thinking what part of my income comes from busking, and I thought that on December 1, I would have to find a full-time job."

When he heard that the ban on amplifiers would not go into effect, James said he was grateful to the MBTA and people who worked for the policy change. "I'm actually impressed with the MBTA. They

listened to us," he said.

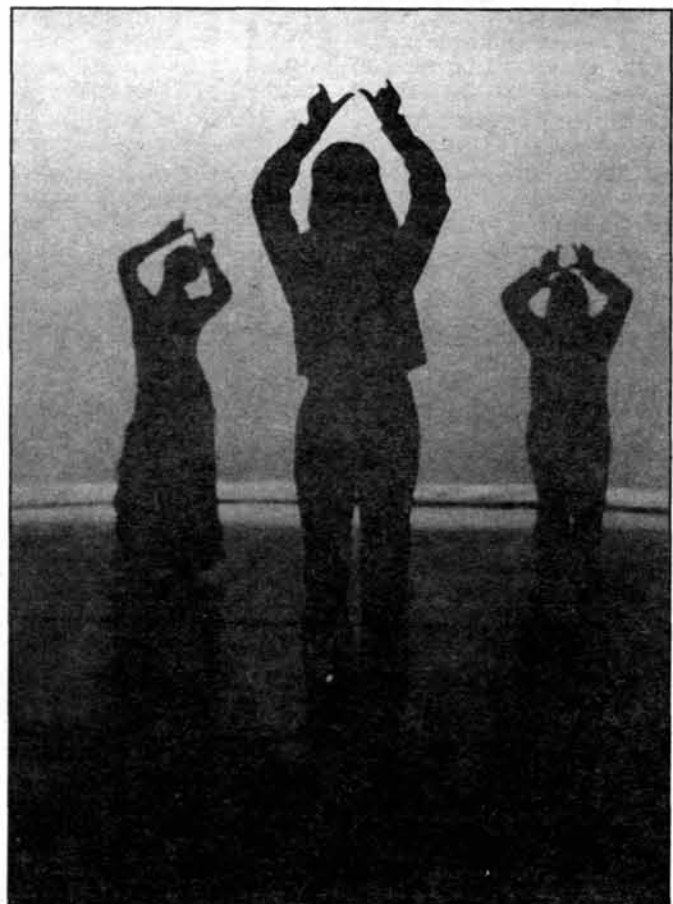
He said that he understands the photo ID requirement, and welcomes it because it legitimizes the subway musician system. James thinks that imposing a sound level limit is also understandable, although he said he personally rarely receives complaints about being too loud.

He said he had taught music for several years to teenagers with behavioral problems, but the job "needed lots of time and energy." James said that his commitment to this occupation prevented him from performing, so he quit, and turned to subway performance as a means of contributing to his income. He found the experience to be invaluable.

"It was an epiphany, working for myself," he said. "It's been the best thing, having a place to practice and get better and earn income."

"I play to a wide range of people, and I can test original songs," he said. "It's very different from playing for myself, and I can find out if the audience likes a piece or not." He said that he has also earned invaluable gigs and connections through his subway performances.

"It's like a live demo tape, they know exactly what they're getting," he said.



Irene E. Brisson '05 (left), Janet Y. Zhou '07 (front), and Martine Lamy '04 are silhouetted against a backdrop in "Cliche Soup."

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MARCUS DAHLEM—THE TECH

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Clockwise from top left:

Cars cross the Harvard Bridge Saturday in the middle of the storm.

The annual Christmas Tree decorating the steps of the Stratton Student Center lies underneath a blanket of snow.

Beacon Street lies covered in snow less than an hour after the storm arrived Friday night.

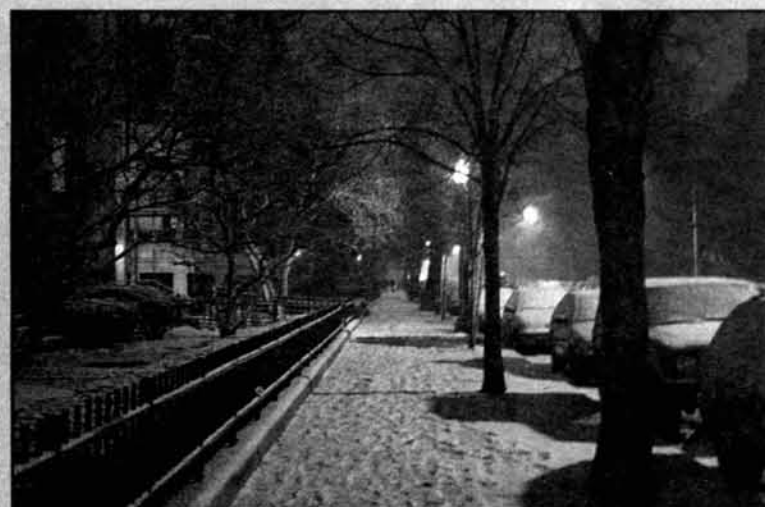
A fallen street lamp lies beside the sidewalk outside of Burton-Conner, illuminating the accumulating snow.



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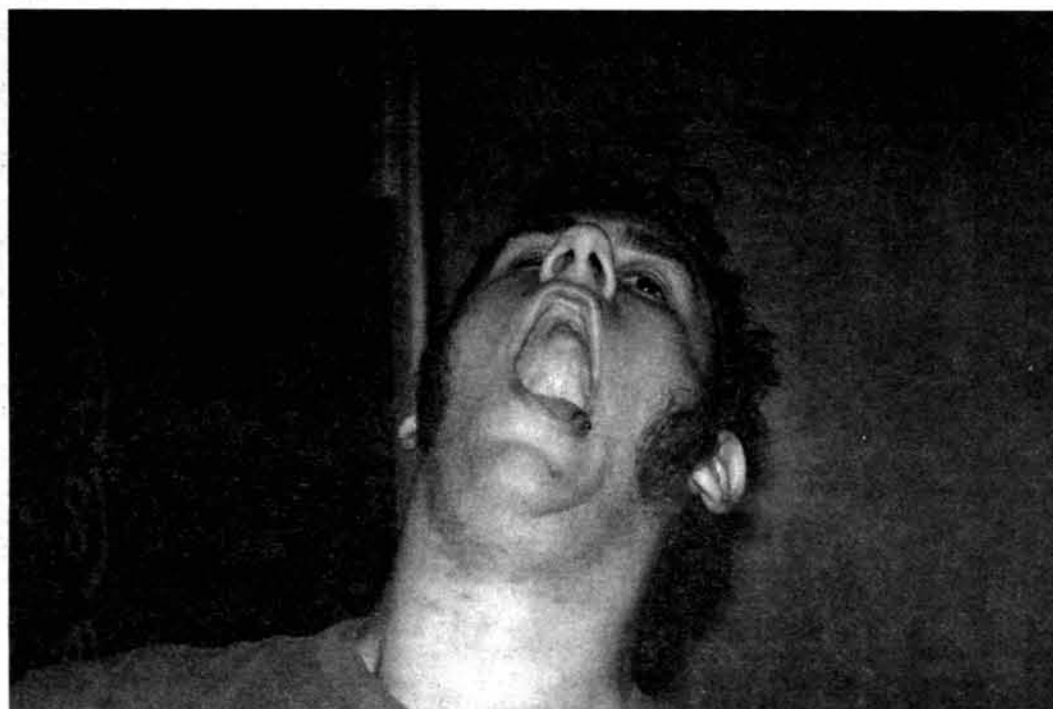
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Frequent T Riders Voice Frustrations

Fare Hike, from Page 1

subway fares from \$0.85 to \$1.00, there was no subsequent decrease in ridership.

Subsidized pass price to rise

MIT Parking and Transportation will continue to offer subsidized T passes for MIT employees and students, but prices will increase because of the fare increase. As of February 2004, monthly subsidized bus passes will cost \$12, up from \$9.50, and subway passes will increase to \$22, up from \$17.50, according to the Parking and Transportation Web site.

Despite the price increase, John M. McDonald, assistant director of enterprise services, said that he does not expect to see a drop in MIT community T passes purchases. The number of people buying the passes did not drop after the fare increase in 2000.

MBTA plans to improve services

The MBTA plans to improve service by providing more frequent service to the busiest bus routes, deploying additional two-car Green Line trains during evening hours, and offering express service on the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line, according to a Nov. 6 press release.

In addition, the MBTA plans to increase supervision on certain routes, recruit ten additional police officers to patrol the system, and hire fifteen more Commuter Rail conductors.

It will also use revenues to fund its Capital Improvement Project, which will include maintenance projects such as the rebuilding of Red Line stations at Charles / Massachusetts General Hospital and Dorchester. Other projects include expansion of the new Silver Line bus route, addition of more environmentally-friendly buses to the fleet, and the installation of automated fare collection equipment similar to that used with the MetroCard in New York City.

MBTA and riders disagree

After hearing testimony from

community members on Nov. 6, members of the MBTA board voted unanimously to approve the fare increases, *The Boston Globe* reported on Nov. 7. However, they decided that bus fares would increase to \$0.90, instead of the originally proposed \$1.00.

Despite the promised improvements, commuters still tend to be wary of the MBTA.

"I have friends who are very angry" with the fare increase, said Nicole Rioles, library assistant at Rotch Visual Collections. "The last increase in 2000 had no positive outcome — there were no positive benefits for the cost increase."

When the MBTA first proposed fare hikes in March, distrust of the transportation authority led to the formation of advocacy groups such as "Beat the Fare Increase." According to its Web site, <http://www.ace-ej.org/FareInc.html>, the group said that fare hikes would force low-income riders to shoulder the costs.

Another concern was voiced by the advocacy group Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group. The group said that transfer rates from buses to subways were too high. A November report released by MassPIRG showed that although the cost of a one-way ride is lower in Boston than in other cities, the proposed fare increases would drive it to the top.

Pesaturo said, however, that the report included inaccurate data for the Chicago and District of Columbia transit systems.

Committee to discuss concerns

To encourage discussion between riders and the MBTA, the Transportation Authority will create a Rider Oversight Committee, which will hold monthly meetings to address rider concerns and try to increase ridership.

Pesaturo said that the committee will comprise 24 individuals, divided evenly between MBTA managers, advocacy groups, and MBTA riders. Applications for the committee will be available on the MBTA Web site, and flyers will be posted in the transit system. The MBTA said that it will announce the members by Jan. 15.



BRIAN HEMOND—THE TECH

For the second time this year, heavy snow has led to the deflation of the James B. Carr tennis bubble. The bubble suffered a similar fate during storms in 1994 and in 1997.

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from page 21

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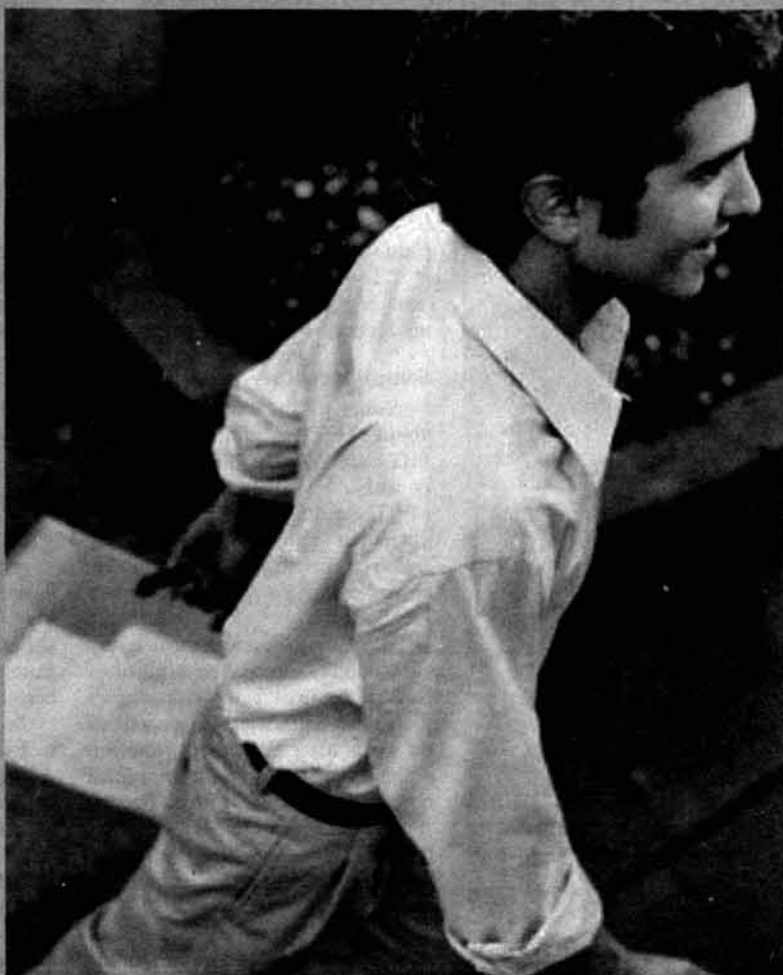
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Proximity MIT Card Raises, Allays Security Concerns

By Ray C. He
STAFF REPORTER

MIT has begun to switch faculty and students from magnetic swipe identification cards to "proximity" cards readable from a distance, but has yet to address the security concerns with both the new system and the old system as a whole.

Like the replacement of the student services card with the original, multipurpose, magnetic-stripe MIT Card in the spring of 1994, the shift to a new technology raises

concerns over security and privacy.

The possibility of covertly reading and copying the cards, even as they rest in other students' pockets, remains a concern. Nobody has demonstrated this, but nobody is prepared to say it is impossible or even particularly difficult for MIT's electrical engineering majors.

The card has the potential to offer some new security benefits, however. A large part of the security of the card depends on the programming done by the MIT Card

Office.

Privacy of cards not certain

"Since [proximity cards] can be read at a distance, someone could set up a bogus ID reader in Lobby 7 to scan ID's as people pass," said Chris T. Lesniewski-Laas G, who proposed a replacement for the MIT Card in 1999.

The typical range of the card readers is from 5 to 25 inches, said Cherie O'Donnell, a sales representative for Indala Corp. of California, which created the proximity card.

The range of readers is being

extended. "We have coming up technologies that will allow us to detect vehicle tags. That's usually several feet," she said.

Security depends on Card Office

Security depends not only on Indala's technology, but also on the MIT Card Office, which programs the readers.

"Any proximity reader and proximity card, we program them in our office, so we determine the encryption in our office," said John M. McDonald, the assistant director of enterprise services. "We're still using Indala's equipment, but Indala themselves, even our vendors, do not have the keys."

Depending on MIT's use of these encryption and password features, the availability of proximity card reader and writer equipment, and motivation, the cards could still be duplicated by people outside the Card Office, Lesniewski-Laas said.

"I would expect that within a year or so, someone will have figured it out," he said.

Some issues of swipe cards solved

Some of the concerns raised about the 1994 incarnation of the MIT Card still exist for the proximity cards.

"The RFIDs inherit all the concerns of the magstripe IDs," Lesniewski-Laas said, using the abbreviation for Radio Frequency Identification.

These flaws included relatively easy duplication, the possibility of card-reader lines being tapped, predictable modifications to deactivated cards after they were reported stolen, and the use of the cards as collateral, according to the "Security Assessment of the MIT Card" by André M. DeHon '90. The document is available at:

http://www.ai.mit.edu/people/andre/mit_card/

Some of the problems DeHon identified were then addressed by the Card Office. The bits incremented for a reissued card were randomized, McDonald said, making a stolen ID card useless once its owner received a new card.

Proximity cards have benefits

"The RFIDs should be better than magstripes because it'll be more difficult to copy it," Lesniewski-Laas said. "It'll require more expensive equipment."

While the proximity component of the cards may be harder to copy, the magnetic stripes — which remain on the MIT Cards — have not changed.

A notable improvement in security is the ability to access doors without taking the card out of a wallet.

"There's an obvious security benefit, if you don't have to open your wallet to open a door," Lesniewski-Laas said. "There's less incentive for people to hang around doors, like muggers for example."

Indala uses a technology dubbed FlexSecur, which keeps data on the proximity card encrypted. "The entire data field is scrambled prior to programming the card," according to a technology information page on Indala's Web site.

This doesn't necessarily make it harder to copy the information on the card, but it does mean, the Web site says, that "the data on the card cannot be decoded to determine the actual information on the card."

Indala would not divulge specific technical information relating to the security of their cards and card readers beyond what can be found on its Web site.

"That information is proprietary information," O'Donnell said.



Albert Lin '04, a MITnet Residential Computing Consultant, swipes with a proxy card in his wallet to exit N42. In addition to the magnetic stripe, all new MIT ID cards contain embedded RFID tags that can be used with proxy card readers.

JIMMY CHEUNG—THE TECH

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Chi Phi, Police Search City of Boston for Mun

Mun, from Page 1

Duvall said that on Saturday, members of Chi Phi organized small search parties of two or three people.

"We organized into groups to search commonly-used routes around" Chi Phi, Duvall said. He said that groups looked for Mun along the routes to the MIT campus

and stores frequented by members of the fraternity.

Duvall said that the MIT Police searched Mun's belongings at the fraternity house yesterday afternoon and that some of his belongings had been given to the police.

No clues of possible whereabouts

Duvall said that Mun left no note

and told no one where he may have gone. Randolph also said that there was no indication of where Mun may have gone.

"We weren't able to find anything," Duvall said. There was "no indication of psychological problems or stress," he said.

In response to an e-mail sent to student group lists that said Mun

was intoxicated at the time of his disappearance, Duvall said that he is "not certain" and that Mun "had been seen [from 1-4 a.m.] in perfectly normal condition."

"I did not realize that there might be any indication that something is wrong," said Mun's father, Kyung Mun, speaking from his home in Missouri.

Randolph said he would not speculate on a cause for Mun's disappearance.

MIT provides support for Chi Phi

Randolph and David N. Rogers, the assistant dean in charge of fraternities, said that their offices are working with the members of Chi Phi to provide support.

Daniel H. Daneshvar '05, the incoming Interfraternity Council president, said that the Student Life Programs office had set up support for Chi Phi and that MIT Medical had spoken with its members.

"We're all hoping for the best at this point," he said.

"All I can say is that I have been following the progress of this through communication with the dean's office and just deeply hope that this has a good outcome," said President Charles M. Vest. "But at this point, we just don't know."

Randolph said that any tips or information about the whereabouts of Mun should be directed to the MIT Police (617-253-1212), the dean for student life's office (617-253-4052), or Randolph himself (617-258-5484).



Phillip T. Johnson '05 sings a solo with the MIT Logarithms at Alpha Phi for their holiday mixer Friday evening.

STEPHANIE LEE—THE TECH

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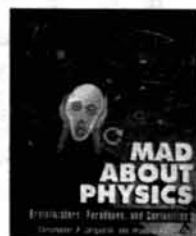
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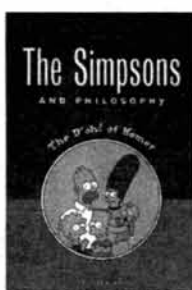
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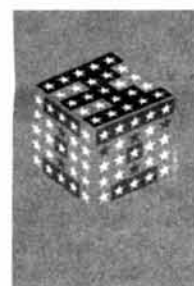
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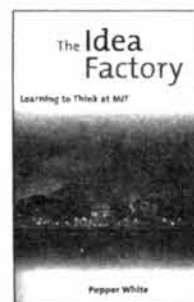
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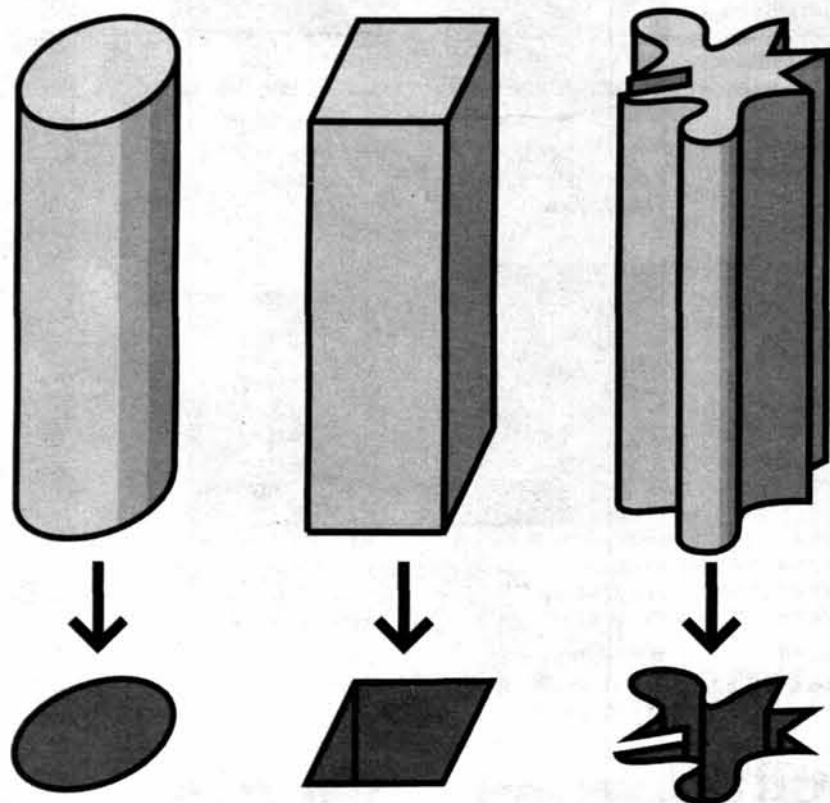
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Housing Lottery Extended, May Hurt Dormitory Life

Orientation, from Page 1

Vandiver said that he was open to discussion about the relative orders and timing of residence exploration, FSILG rush, and the housing lottery. If someone gave him a convincing argument, he said, "I'd say fine."

"I think it's in the FSILG's interest if [the housing lottery] happened later," Vandiver said. He said that it was important to consider the housing system as a whole, including both FSILGs and dormitories, and that it was important to help support living groups in the transition period following freshmen living entirely on campus.

Ultimately, Vandiver said, the best system for housing would be the one with "the fewest students who were unhappy with where they were put first."

Housing events spread over weeks

Currently, residence exploration events are scheduled for four days from Friday until Monday, which is Labor Day. Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict said that one possibility for a freshman move-out day following the lottery was the four day weekend several weeks into September. Vandiver said that FSILG rush was assumed to begin the Friday after Labor Day as it did this year.

However, the schedule does not set aside a time during Orientation for in-house rush between floors or living groups.

It "poses a big problem of in-house rooming," Cofer said. Dorm-

con would likely seek to move residence exploration and in-house rush "back, during or before Orientation events begin," she said.

She said that a later Orientation would not mean more upperclassmen to represent dormitories or floors because those students not returning early would arrive right before classes started, and would not be any more able to contribute to community events.

Later lottery may hurt dorm life

MIT's housing system changed drastically in the fall of 2002 when freshmen were required to live on campus for the first time in decades. Additionally, freshmen were allowed to remain in the dormitory they were initially assigned to, essentially opting out of the housing lottery, and FSILG rush was moved to the middle of the term.

Some students believe that allowing freshmen to opt out of the housing lottery will be detrimental to dormitory culture and distinctiveness.

Cofer said that "this is seriously going to impact the ability of dorms to maintain their cultures."

Pi-Han Lin '04 said there "will definitely be a lot of students who will not want to go through the hassle, even if they prefer another dorm or another side of campus."

"I think with each incoming freshman class, dorm cultures will fade away. I think it's regrettable," said Lin. "With implementations like this, the Institute is not giving students enough degrees of freedom

to explore dorm cultures they will fit into."

Last year, only 140 freshmen, or one-seventh of the freshmen class, requested to transfer dormitories, and 80 were able to move. This fall, 200 freshmen made requests to move, but only 110 of the requests were fulfilled.

A questionnaire on the housing

lottery form that freshmen filled out last year indicated that 98 percent were "content" with their housing assignment.

Ubong Ukoh '04 said that the three day residence exploration period will not have much of an effect on dormitory rush.

"I don't think it's significant," Ukoh said.

As for the adjustment lottery, "It'll definitely make people stay in the same places."

When asked to compare his Orientation in 2002 to the proposed new Orientation schedule, Ukoh said "I think the old method has more pros than cons, and I would suggest that they use the old method."

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CSAIL Delays Planned Move to Stata Center

The Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory was slated in January to start moving into the \$285 million Ray and Maria Stata Center, in progress since 1999.

In an e-mail sent late last night, lab director Rodney A. Brooks said the move would be delayed:

Dear colleagues,

Up until this morning the Stata Project Team were still aiming at getting our move started on Jan 12th and extending through the rest of the month.

Due to a combination of factors it now looks like we will not be starting our move at that time. We are working with the Project Team to identify a new date that will not have to change again. The aim is to move when the network infrastructure has been adequately tested and when almost all work in our space has been completed.

A March move is being discussed as the best solution to the constraints, but there are still a number of discussions to be had and it could be sooner. I'll let you know as soon as we are able to fix a definitive date.

In the meantime don't despair! For those of you who have seriously started thinking about the move you know there is a lot of sorting, packing and discarding to be done. I suggest you continue this work

(or start it), and, for instance, pack your more archival material that you are not likely to need for the next while into orange crates over the next few weeks. Then when the move really does come you will be able to finish sorting and packing without much disruption to your schedule.

Thanks for your patience!
—Rod

SMILE @ MIT

Smile@MIT is a the MIT chapter of Operation Smile, a non-profit organization. Operation Smile performs free reconstructive surgery on children with facial deformities and burns.

Smile@MIT organizes fundraising events in which all proceeds go towards the surgeries. During the week of April 14th to 18th, 2003, Smile organizes 8 Smile, in which people voted For their favorite professor by donating any amount. The event raised over \$300. The winner of that event was Professor Mattuck who raised \$72.74.

On the 26th of April 2003, Smile and Number 6 co-hosted an people auction. Dates offered themselves and people from the audience bided. The event raised over \$1300.

This semester, Smile@MIT organized a raffle. Sponsors of the raffle are Top of the Hub, Fire and Ice, California Pizza Kitchen, Bombay Club and Pizzeria Uno. Tickets were sold at \$1 each and 1147 tickets were sold. The draw of raffle tickets was held on Saturday, 6th December in the Coffeehouse.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS!!!!

Grand Prize: Five course dinner for 4 at the Top of the Hub

Ticket No: 0303 – Sheldon Hewlett

Consolation Prizes:

Ticket No: 0830 – Kate Baty

Ticket No: 0112 – E. Ptacek

Ticket No: 0368 – Miguel Ferriera

Ticket No: 0124 – Chris Gichuhi

Ticket No: 1506 – Veronica Cedillos

Ticket No: 0307 – Sheldon Hewlett

Ticket No: 0660 – Sofia Caleggero

Emails have been sent to all winners. Winners should send an email to smile-adm@mit.edu to collect prizes.

Smile!



Vest Considers Sabbatical, Reflects on MIT's Future

Vest, from Page 1

retired, he was a mathematics professor, I said, "Dad, what are you going to do next?" He said, "I'm going to paint the living room." He hadn't planned much beyond that. So I'm in about the same stage. Seriously, the Institute has made a sabbatical leave available. I haven't taken a sabbatical since 1974, and I'm hoping that I can actually do that. I just think after this incredibly intense period of what will have been at that point 14 years, I would like a little time to reflect and read. I'm probably going to do some writing, and think about what I can productively do next.

I do not intend under any circumstance to go to another university.

My hope is that I'll remain here in some way, but I'll have to figure out a way to earn my keep. I certainly hope to keep involved in national affairs, policy affairs, maybe do a little bit more work for the non-profit center one way or another. So it's all very fuzzy right now, but I am forward to a little time to reflect but I am certainly not ready to go out to pasture.

TT: No immediate plans to go back to teaching at MIT?

Vest: No. I'm pretty far out — it's been twenty-some years since I've been engaged as a scholar in research, but as you know I have a lot of interest and experience in policy matters and so forth. So I'll give it some thought. I would hope that maybe some seminars or maybe some sort downstream. But right now I'm looking to another nine or ten months of hard work, and then I'll stop to think about that.

TT: What advice would you have for the next MIT president?

Vest: Look, I believe this is the best presidency in the United States, and whoever the person that follows me is, I hope will have as rewarding a time personally and professionally as I have had. The number one thing that I hope they understand is that being president of a major institution like this is a life. It's not a job, it's a 24-hour-a-day activity: very intense, as everything else at MIT tends to be. I very much hope that

the next president will stay the course and continue the path that the Task Force on Student Life and Learning set us on [in 1998]. ...

Each president has to decide what they want to do beyond the fundamental responsibilities they have, and I chose that largely in the sense of national service and the Washington domain. The next person may choose something entirely different, but I would advise that they pick something that they take particular ownership and try to exert a little national leadership as well as performing their duties here.

TT: Do you have any regrets about the last 13 years?

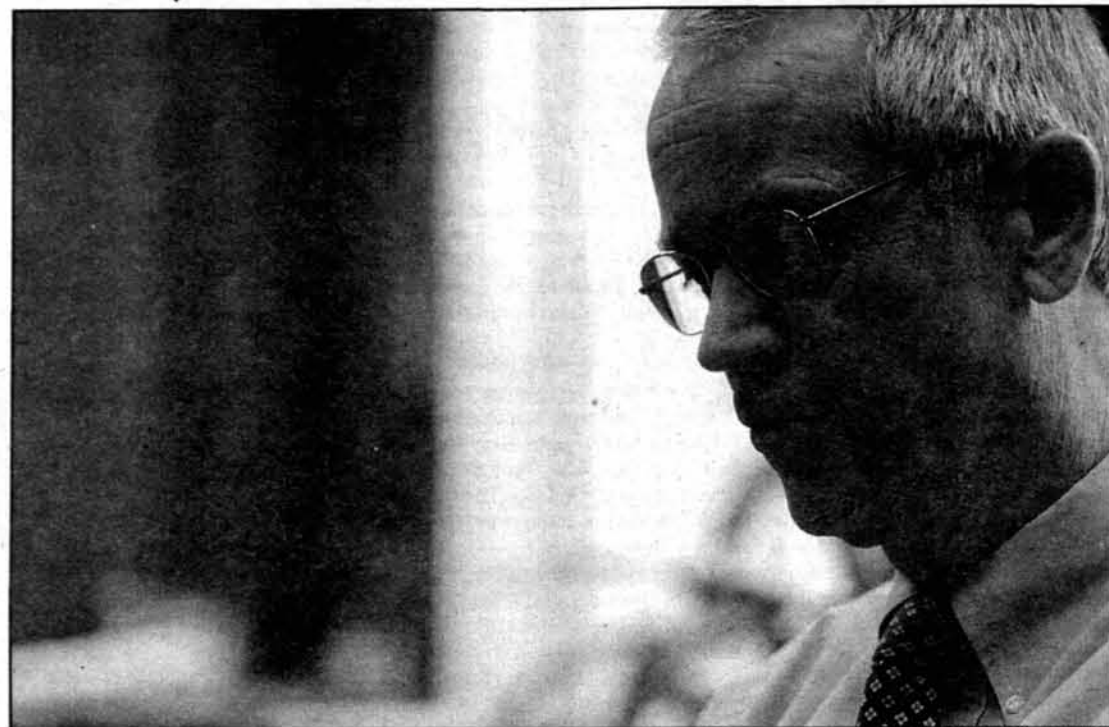
Vest: My biggest regret is that we haven't been able to build more momentum and establishing greater diversity across our faculty and, as I said, across our graduate student body.

TT: Knowing what you do now about how the stock market was going to go, do you think MIT would have financially planned differently four years ago?

Vest: I hope not. And let me tell you that in 1997-98, that academic year, you may remember that I wrote my president's report that year on the path to our future, which really was a condensation and an attempt to bring coherence to the general discussions of planning and aspirations of the faculty. ...

We had a set of things to accomplish, and to be honest, I was bound and determined to accomplish those no matter what the stock market was doing. And I used to kid the members of the executive committee that when we looked at the expenditure rates, the numerator never changed, only the denominator changed. So it's a fact that, given the strong buildup over several years, and particularly the year where we ended up 57 percent, it enabled me to get the backing and support of the trustees to do what we planned to do. But I was kind of like a bulldog on getting those basic things done, and I think we would have done them even if we hadn't had the really rapid ramp-up.

TT: With, for instance, Carpen-



AARON D. MIHALIK—THE TECH

Institute President Charles M. Vest discusses MIT's commitment to the current policy of using an applicant's race as a factor in college admissions in February 2003.

ter, Shin, and Krueger matters, MIT seems to have developed a skittish relationship with the press. How do you think MIT can heal its relationship on that front?

Vest: My hope is that having opened up some of these horrible things that every university and university president has to deal with, the tragedy of suicide among wonderful young people, my only hope is that that having been opened up a bit helps people to think, to realize the problem.

America has a suicide problem among young people. Every statistical base shows that. Every institution is wrestling with it. And as you know, the reason I have been so worried about how things like lawsuits may play out, is that at the end of the day, if society decides that institutions are liable for the results of such tragic deaths, what's going to happen is that thousands of young men and women who may have emotional difficulties who are now able to go to college and benefit from it — because of the onset of new medicines, because of the more

open atmosphere and understanding on the parts of colleges and universities — the bars are going to go down and a lot of opportunity is going to be lost. So, I feel very strongly about that.

To get to the core of your question, I think we're a lightning rod. When things go wrong here ... we get put under a microscope, and I think we just have to live with that, but we do have, we should have the ability to insist that reporting be factual and not just be piling on, and I think really in the last couple of years, the major papers have pretty much moved beyond that. But I refuse to approach such serious matters as a public-relations matter. That's not what's it all about.

TT: Where do you see MIT twenty years from now?

Vest: It is amusing to look back and realize that I was in fact the first president of MIT to have a computer in the office. We actually had that credenza built so I would have a place to put a computer. Very soon after I came here, I made it known that if people wanted to get in touch

with me, e-mail was the way to do it. ...

But seriously, the world has changed immensely and there are a couple of things that are on my mind at the moment looking ahead. One is that I hope that over the coming years that MIT will begin to play a leadership role in sorting out how we are going to generate energy for this planet in the future and to do so in an environmentally sustainable way. I think this is perhaps the largest challenge with a clear technology base that humankind follows.

And while we continue to play leadership in the things the faculty have developed in recent years — in nanoscale science and technology, in brain and cognitive science, in the scientific underpinnings of genetically-based medicine and so forth — I hope we will also pay attention to the macroscopic science of that scale. And to me, the combination of energy and environment is a huge challenge out there, that we're doing a lot in, but I hope we'll do more.

Vest: The Folksy Outsider Who Won Over MIT

By Kate Zernike
THE NEW YORK TIMES

DEC. 7, 2003

Dr. Charles M. Vest was not the first choice when the trustees of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology went looking for a new president in 1989.

But when the first choice, Phillip A. Sharp, a professor of biology at MIT, backed out after his selection had been publicly announced, the search committee telephoned Vest, who was provost and former dean of engineering at the University of Michigan.

In Cambridge, Mass., people raised an eyebrow at the notion of choosing an outsider. Vest himself doubted that he would get the job.

"Here was a young guy who went to West Virginia University and spent some 20 years at a major state institution in the Midwest," he said on Friday, after announcing that he would retire as soon as his successor has been appointed. "I felt I would be surprised if a great elite institution on the East Coast like MIT would be interested in me."

In his 13 years as president, Vest, 62, has been credited with tremendous shifts at MIT, long considered one of the most prestigious universities, in aspects like the footprint of the campus, the quality of student life and how research is financed.

His fans said it was the outsider's perspective and the West Virginia folksiness that made Vest, widely known as Chuck, so effective, whether advocating for more federal money, fighting against changes in financial aid, dealing with student drinking

on campus or in publicizing the admission, in a highly unusual report in 1999, that the university had discriminated against women on the faculty.

"He was visionary on the fundamental changes that were happening in academia, he was tactical in terms of what MIT needed, and yet he was extremely sensitive in dealing with many of the issues of student life," said Denis A. Bovin '69, vice chairman of Bear, Stearns and an MIT trustee. "It's not hard to find someone who's good in one of those areas. To find someone who excelled in all three is quite rare and precious."

One of the earliest problems Vest tackled was a suit by the Justice Department against a group of elite universities that met each spring to agree on how much financial aid they would offer individual students. While the other universities settled, Dr. Vest chose to fight, arguing that not being allowed to share information would lead to a bidding war for students. MIT lost. But the government settled before an appeal went to trial; the settlement was widely seen as an admission that it could not win the case.

He also recognized that federal financing for research and development was drying up and that the university had to seek more money from private sources. When he arrived in 1990, most of the operating budget was from federal research funds, with 21 percent from gifts or endowment. Now, research makes up 36 percent of the budget, gifts and endowment 39 percent. He has secured 18 of the 25 largest gifts to the uni-

versity and overseen an increase in the endowment, to \$5.1 billion this year from \$1.4 billion in 1990.

At the same time, he has been a persistent presence in Washington, arguing for the need to continue federal financing for science and serving on a number of committees to advance scientific research. After the September 11, 2001, attacks, he urged that the national security move to limit the topics foreign students could study be balanced by the continuing need for academic freedom.

"Chuck's success is that he is very much of the world of the newest of ideas and high technology, and yet his nature is very low-key and like somebody you'd meet on a street corner and get engaged in an interesting conversation with," Sen. John D. Rockefeller IV, D-W.Va., said. "He made senators and others feel very comfortable because he didn't seem surprised when they knew technical terms. That's very important."

Shirley M. Tilghman, the president of Princeton, said, "There is no issue in science where people don't look to him for very wise counsel."

In 1999, a group of women who were professors at MIT compiled statistics showing that they had been discriminated against in many ways, including smaller salaries and laboratory spaces. When they presented the report to Vest, the women presumed that he would disagree with their hopes of making it public. He not only allowed it to be published on the MIT Web site, but he also wrote an introduction that endorsed its find-

ings.

"I have always believed that contemporary gender discrimination is part reality and part perception," he wrote. "True, but I now understand that reality is by far the greater part of the balance."

Nancy Hopkins, who led the effort, said last week: "The convenient thing would have been to say it wasn't true. That's what people expected. Seeing that letter come across my screen was one of the amazing moments of my life. It took a person of real courage, a real conviction and a conscience."

Similar reports on gender imbalance and efforts to address it have been copied on many other campuses.

Vest "opened an opportunity for a national discussion that never would have happened if it weren't for him," Tilghman said. "He has been so important, not just for MIT but for the whole country."

Vest also led the response in 1997 when a freshman, Scott S. Krueger '01, died after hazing at a fraternity party. Vest wrote Krueger's parents a letter when the university settled with them for \$6 million, saying that MIT had "failed you and Scott" and that its approach to housing and alcohol policy was "inadequate."

Largely as a result of that case, the university invested heavily in building dormitories and required all freshmen to live on campus, rather than in houses and fraternities scattered around Boston and Cambridge. It added administrators to oversee student life, and it recently completed a new athletic center to increase the sense of community.

Got a tip? Call *The Tech* News Hotline: x31541

ARTS

A CAPELLA REVIEW

*It Just Keeps on Resonating Better**Major Improvements Seen in Resonance's Latest Performance*

By Marissa A. Cheng

Resonance, with Integration by Parts and Simple Harmonic Motion
54-100
Dec. 5, 8 p.m.

It just keeps getting better and better. Friday night's concert in 54-100 was the fifth Resonance concert I've been to, not including events like Greater Boston Invitational Sing. In the past six months Resonance seems to have grown in size, since I don't recognize most of the group any more. This is a good thing — Resonance's fall concert is now at the top of the list of a capella concerts I've been to.

The concert began with a performance by Integration by Parts, a six-member Cam-

bridge/Boston-area a capella group. Their first song, the Mario Brothers theme song, was slightly hard to recognize at times, but maybe that's because I saw Super Mario for the first time about a month ago. "Lois Lane" by Uncle Bonsai was very well choreographed, with good harmonies. The last song, "Bad Touch" by the Bloodhound Gang, had a lot of personality, though at times it was hard to hear the soloist. For its size, though, Integration by Parts was very solid, with a lot of imagination.

After Integration by Parts, Resonance sang four songs, including the two best songs of the evening. "Banditos," by The Refreshments, came first, then "Androgyny" by Garbage. As Garbage is one of my favorite bands, I was excited to hear the song. I liked the arrangement, but felt that the soloist, Julia P. Patriar-

co '05, was holding back — the song lacked the requisite edginess.

Between the first two songs and second two songs, there was the skit about the inflatable cactus you read about in Resonance's ad in *The Tech*. Quite frankly, skits at a capella concerts have always puzzled me — it's not a variety show — and in my experience, they have their ups and downs. This skit, which featured an inflatable cactus as a contestant in various reality TV shows, goes in the "ups" category. One highlight: "Survivor: Mojave Desert," where the host challenged the cactus and two guys to go without water for the longest period of time.

Resonance's third song was my favorite, "Ghost" by the Indigo Girls. It blew me away. I'd heard the Indigo Girls' version of the song before and didn't like it. I think it's much better suited to a capella (sorry, Indigo Girls). The song had great harmonies, and was much richer in sound than the actual song — I can't wait until Resonance records this song for their next CD. I especially liked how the voices of the soloist, Caroline A. Niziolek '05, and her partner for the duets, Stephanie R. Silberstein '06, meshed.

The next song, "Here is Gone" by the Goo Goo Dolls, was my second-favorite song of the evening. The soloist, Solomon M. Bisker '06, was well-chosen for the song, and he settled into the song confidently as it progressed. It was in this song, and "Ghost," that I thought that Resonance really sang with everything they had. The percussion throughout the entire concert was excellent, but was especially strong on this song.

Resonance took a break at this point, presenting their second guest group, WPI's Simple Harmonic Motion. SHM has performed at previous Resonance concerts, and seemed stronger than they were last year. Their opening song was "Sweet Adeline," which had great harmonies. The second song, Toto's "Africa," was solid, but uninspiring; it seemed like the range of the soloist's voice was slightly too high for the song. The third song, "Pinball Wizard," by The Who, was the best.

While a few lines were undistinguishable because of the chorus drowning out the soloist, this song was the most dynamic, and had the most energy.

The second part of Resonance's performance began with "Why Can't I" by Liz Phair. The soloist for this song, Sara M. Tenenbein '04, had the right voice for the song, and was heartfelt. This is nitpicky, but I thought that the ending sounded like it was cut short.

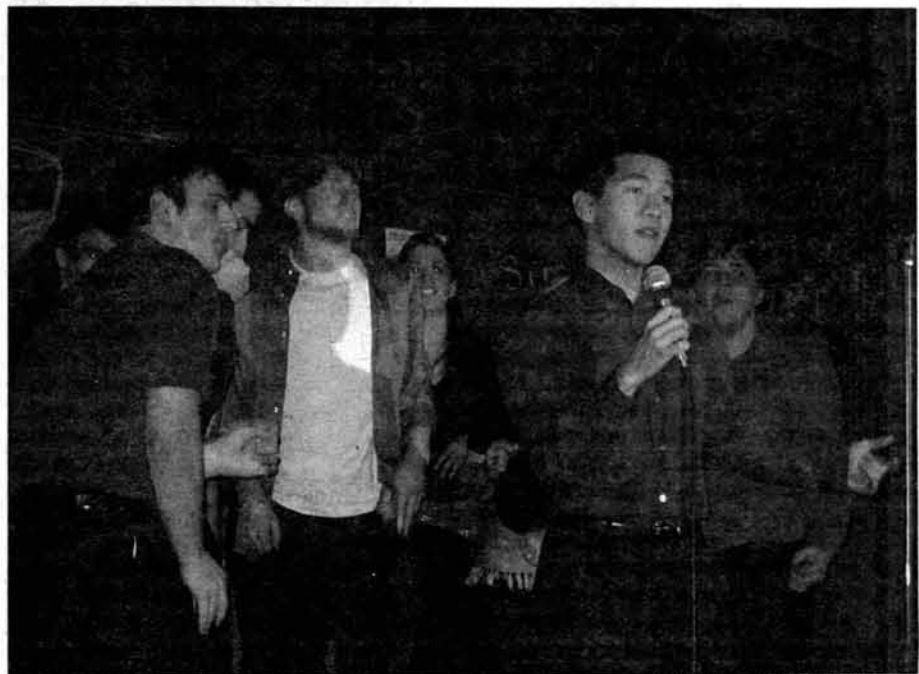
The next two songs were songs by departing members of the group, Charlene A. St. Pierre '03 with "Tainted Love," and Jamie Clark '99 with "Breaking Up." "Breaking Up," an arrangement combining two different songs by Neil Sedaka and 2gether, is one of Resonance's best songs, and is also on their CD. The song was better than the CD recording, because of the added depth that Resonance has this year, though the rap segment towards the end is always too soft for the hard of hearing.

Andrew M. Iannaccone G soloed in the next song, "Shimmer" by Fuel, which was technically Resonance's last song. However, no audience lets an a capella group go without an encore. Resonance's encore was "Maria" by Blondie, with a solo by Patriarco. This is a song that she sings well, but the song that she does best is "Always Getting Over You" by Angela Ammons.

After more profuse applause, Resonance came back for one more encore, "Steal My Kisses" by Ben Harper. The voice of Stephen S. Lee '05 was stronger than it was the last time I heard the song, and there was a new percussion interlude in the middle of the song that was, quite frankly, amazing. The song was lively and full of energy: an excellent end to the concert.

This year, Resonance is especially good, with consistently solid songs and several excellent songs. Since their last concert, they've added a lot of depth to their group, and have a well-balanced, robust sound, as well as a lot of personality, both required qualities for a truly good a capella group.

The only problem I see now is that sometimes their soloists hold back, even though you can tell that they can really sing it the way it's meant to be sung. Having seen them progress over the past few years, I'm excited to see what Resonance does with their next concert — I'm sure it'll be even better than this one was.



Stephen S. Lee '05 sings "Steal My Kisses" by Ben Harper at Resonance's Fall concert on Friday in 54-100.

A CAPELLA REVIEW

*Hot A Capella on a Cold Winter Night**Exuberant Muses Dazzle Crowds with Sheer Talent*

By Thomas Eng

MIT Muses, with Bassix
10-250
Dec. 6, 8 p.m.

Last spring, Marjan Bolouri '04 wrote that at the Muses' next concert, they would undoubtedly perform to a standing room only crowd. If not for the audacious blizzard raging through the Eastern seaboard, her prediction would have been correct. Even with the terrible weather, the Muses' charismatic and energetic style combined with their unrivaled singing talent was more than adequate to fill 10-250.

The concert opened with the well-known "Tech Cheer" to introduce their cover group, Bassix, an all-male a capella group from Northeastern University. Relaxed and full of energy, they presented an eclectic seven-song set. Their opening song, Simon and Garfunkel's "Me and Julio Down by the Schoolyard," was rather weak and lackluster, failing to reach the same emotional depth as the original.

Their other songs, such as their rendition of the Scottish folk song "By Yon Bonnie Banks" and the hymnal "Oh Holy Night" by Chapeau de Roquemaure, were emotionally stirring and captivating, as their stronger soloists rose to the spotlight. "Oh Holy Night" was a clear choice for the holiday season, with its religious overtones. Bassix was even able to continue an unscripted improvisational a capella harmony despite a lighting problem in the middle of their performance. They rounded out their set with renditions of Moxxy Frivious' "Gulf War Song" and Fountains of Wayne's "Stacy's Mom," two humorous pieces that ended their performance on a high note.

In typical dramatic fashion, the Muses stole the spotlight by dancing onto the stage from both sides with a fantastically MIT paro-

dy of "Stand by Me," entitled "Muses Amuse Me." Soloist Anastasia Rodriguez '04 gave depth to lines such as "When I can't find a date on a Saturday night, then those hot Muses will be there to amuse me" while excellent choreography expanded with tantalizing (if not saucy) imagery and suggestive poses. The effect on the crowd was clear, as they responded with enthused cheers and clapping.

Not a single one of their songs was sung with difficulty; it was obvious that they had practiced long and hard. The backup singers harmonized and complemented the soloists with near perfection, utilizing their wide vocal range and mastery of different styles. Wham's "Wake Me Up (Before You Go Go)" featured the powerful and confident voice of Sheena Hembradorm '06.

Combined with expressive choreography, Stephanie Cho '06 delivered a beautiful solo performance in the GoGo's "Head Over Heels," showcasing her clear, impressive voice. The energetic and expressive voice of Charlene Shih '07 resonated with emotion, in a slower, more natural version of Avril Lavigne's "Sk8er Boi" which showed more depth and understanding than Lavigne's version.

The expected skit in the middle of their performance was absolutely hilarious. Jen Fische '07 needed a new ass from sitting for too many hours in front of an Athena terminal, so she

went to the nearest department store to find a better one. After examining several possible choices, she ended up choosing the newest model with several different "vibrate" modes.

After the break, Liz Lin '06 and Frannie Weld '05 gave solid solo renditions over a wide range of artistic styles from The Pink and Sneaker Pimps. However, during "Goodbye Earl" by the Dixie Chicks, a technical problem with their sound system failed to bring out the soloist's voice — you could hear the speakers cracking with distortion as they failed, overshadowing the voice of Caroline

Reiley '06 in the chorus.

As with tradition, the Muses invited their alumni up to the stage to sing their classic "How High the Moon" for a vibrant and interesting contrast to their previous format of solo performances. Even though one of their alumni came dressed in white instead of their classic black, it was clear they integrated back as a single group very easily with a confident style seen in their solos.

The evening was a resounding success, demonstrating once again that the Muses are one of the best a capella groups on campus, with effective percussion, choreography, choral harmony, and of course amazing solo vocalists. They have already mastered the spectrum of songs written and performed by female vocalists. Could they possibly challenge themselves with a song sung traditionally by men?



Soloist Frances W. Weld '05 sings "Six Underground" by The Sneaker Pimps during the Muses Fall Concert last Saturday in 10-250.

CLASSICAL REVIEW

MITSO Discovers 'Lord of the Rings'

Shostakovich Symphony, Reprise of World Premiere Make for Long But Animated Concert

By Bogdan Fedeles

STAFF WRITER

MIT Symphony Orchestra
Dante Anzolini, conductor
Insoo Kim '05, violin
Kresge Auditorium
Dec. 5, 8 p.m.

Last Friday, during a cold and snowy evening, MITSO performed their end of term concert, comprised of 20th and 21st century music. Despite being very long and repetitive (one piece was performed twice), the concert was well-received by a large and brave audience. The program included a world premiere by Italian composer Giovanni D'Aquila ("Through the mines of Moria"), Glazunov's Violin Concerto (featuring soloist Insoo Kim, '05) and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11.

The title of Giovanni D'Aquila's piece, "Through the Mines of Moria," takes us instantaneously to J.R.R. Tolkien's world of the "Lord of the Rings." The intention of the piece, however is ambiguous. It sounded both like a musical poem and incidental film music. However, the piece did not have a character of its own, relying exclusively on the story's details.

The music describes the fellowship of the ring passing through the mines of Moria, and wizard Gandalf's battle with the Balrog. Without the story, the piece doesn't make a lot of sense musically. Nevertheless, there is a lot of pretty music to enjoy superficially and given the solid performance that MITSO delivered, it was enough for the audience to enjoy this piece, even twice. This is because the piece was performed at the beginning of each half of the concert — the second time,

with the belated, but welcomed composer in audience.

Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11, subtitled "The Year 1905," perhaps the most programmatic of his works, follows a story line as well (the early 1905 Russian revolution), and yet the music is more independent and more descriptive than the D'Aquila piece.

A symphony of grand proportions, Shostakovich's 11th runs for more than an hour, which seems incredibly long, especially after a 35-minute intermission. However, MITSO performed eloquently, enticing the audience until the very last minute.

The bleak atmosphere of the beginning in the "The Palace Square" was well depicted, featuring an excellent string section seconded by the harps. The tutti of the intense second movement ("The ninth of January") were forceful, but not too loud. A revived percussion section, with many new people, dominated the ensemble and the evening, without overdoing it. The military rhythms so often encountered in Shostakovich's music were rendered with a lot of determination and character.

A good viola section stood out in the third movement ("Eternal Memory"), singing very intensely the mourning theme, later picked up with the same pathos by the whole string section and woodwinds. The finale ("Alarm") featured more exact ensemble work, with good brass and percussion above expressive string and woodwind playing. Especially good was the closing English horn solo (Molly G. Bright '06), very passionate and musical. All in all, when challenged with the huge expanses of the Russian symphonic landscapes, such as this piece, MITSO confirmed its class and delivered a high caliber

performance, very descriptive and genuine.

The special moment in the program was Glazunov's Violin Concerto, performed by Insoo Kim '05, co-winner of the Concerto Competition last year. A staple of the violin repertoire, and of early 20th century music, Glazunov's concerto offers remarkable interpretation challenges, together with some brilliant technical work, all in a fairly succinct piece that runs without pause.

Kim displayed an excellent command of the violin, with a solid technique and very expressive playing. The lyrical passages were utterly romantic, full of indulging slides and wide vibratos. When audible, the expansive technical passages sounded fresh and detached, Kim showing a relaxed easiness of playing, very enjoyable to watch.

I write "when audible," because the main flaw of the piece was the balance with the orchestra. Glazunov's thick orchestration demanded a more careful blending of the soloist with the orchestra, which sadly, didn't quite happen. The accompaniments were often too bold and too loud, overwhelming the solo part, especially in its low register. Kim was relaxed enough and didn't try to overcompensate, thus delivering a very consistent performance, even if at times very independent from the orchestra.

The cadenza was especially vivid and



SYLVIA YANG—THE TECH

Violin soloist Insoo Kim '05 performs Alexander Glazunov's Violin Concerto in A Minor, Op. 82, with the MIT Symphony Orchestra in Kresge Auditorium on Dec. 5.



SYLVIA YANG—THE TECH

Music director Dante Anzolini conducts the MIT Symphony Orchestra in its performance of Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony No. 11, "The Year 1905."



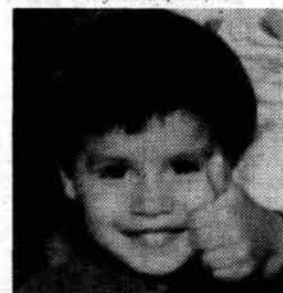
WENDY GU—THE TECH

Frederick Harris Jr. conducts the MIT Wind Ensemble during Saturday night's concert "The Art of the Wind Ensemble" in Kresge. The concert featured a variety of small ensemble pieces as well as full ensemble works to provide an evening of enjoyment for those who braved the snowstorm to attend.

1 year old, 1991



2 years old, 1992



Stevie Ace Flores.

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on March 23, 1993, on Pacific Coast
Highway in Wilmington, Calif.

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U.S. Department of Transportation

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Harbison's 'Abraham' To Be Performed for the Pope

Harbison, from Page 1

On the program is Mahler's Symphony No. 2, "Resurrection," and Levine wanted something more contemporary to serve as a prelude to the Mahler symphony. And hence, the commission was born.

Commission heavily planned

Harbison chooses his words carefully when describing his communications with many disparate entities in putting together this commission, though he does say that in general, he "enjoys certain kinds of restrictions, self-imposed or from the outside," when writing music.

Why did Harbison choose, for "Abraham," brass instruments to accompany his choir of roughly 300 voices? The Mahler symphony that follows on the program, Harbison says, has "an unusually large group" of brass players who will be making the trek to Rome, and, "in terms of the playing load, they have probably the least to do. They play a lot in that piece, but of course they play less than everybody else."

Why thirteen brass instruments? The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, which will be performing the "Resurrection" Symphony, will provide the brass players for "Abraham," but they must number at least thirteen in order to be identified as the Pittsburgh Symphony, according to the orchestra's contract with its musicians.

The subject material, though, was agreed upon from the beginning. Abraham was chosen as the focus for Harbison's six-minute motet, the composer says, as this Biblical figure is the "father of many nations." After some negotiations, mediated by Levine, with a papal artistic committee, texts and a language were chosen. As the concert is part of a conference of Christian, Jewish, and Islamic religious leaders, everything is a sensitive issue. There is "no topic you can get into today that's as rough as the Middle East," Harbison says.

Harbison initially suggested texts from the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Koran. He also proposed poems by two modern poets, the British-American Denise Levertov and Czeslaw Milosz, the 1980 Nobel Prize laureate in Literature who has interacted with

Pope John Paul II. In addition, Harbison also initially suggested that the piece have parts in three different languages (Hebrew, Latin, and Arabic). In the end, however, a single text was chosen from the Old Testament (Genesis), and it will be sung in the oddly secular language of English.

Even the dedication of the work was a negotiation, the writing of which was mostly out of Harbison's hands. The dedication is to the pope, but the commission comes from somewhere else. The full text is: "Dedicated to His Holiness Pope John Paul II in honor of his pontificate, his long dedication to fostering reconciliation of the people of Abraham — Jews, Christians, and Muslims — and with deep gratitude to Maestro Sir Gilbert Levine, KCSG, for his 15-year long creative collaboration with His Holiness, which led to the great honor of this commission. Commissioned by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, with the generous support of the Knights of Columbus."

"As you can see, it's carefully worked out," Harbison said.

Church's role in the arts diminished

The Roman Catholic Church is a far cry today from what it was half a millennium ago, not only in terms of political influence across the world, but also in terms of patronage for the arts. Hundreds of years ago, many composers made their livelihood from the Church, perhaps most famously Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina.

"Some of those popes," Harbison says, "they weren't theologically the most august, but they were among the greatest patrons of the arts: musical works, architectural works, paintings. They were unbelievably discerning and highly knowledgeable."

Pope Julius II "was perhaps not the most admirable spiritual leader, but he understood a lot," Harbison says. "If there was a choice between giving money to Michelangelo or starting another [military] campaign, he'd usually put Michelangelo first."

The Church was somewhat bizarre in their dealings with composers, too. "Miserere mei," arguably the most famous work of Gregorio Allegri, a 17th-century composer who composed music for the Roman Catholic Church, was deemed so heavenly that only the papal

choir was allowed to perform it, and a copy exists today only because Mozart, who was invited to conduct it, purportedly memorized the score and transcribed it.

Yet, as most music history students learn, right around Beethoven's time, composers divorced themselves from both their religious and secular patrons and began to compose independent of one overarching sponsor.

Religious music, however, did not stop being composed. Most major composers since Bach have composed liturgical works, with masses and requiems as the most outstanding examples. In relatively recent years, Harbison names in particular Olivier Messiaen, Cesar Franck, Igor Stravinsky, Frank Martin, Alfred Schnittke, and Krzysztof Penderecki as examples of major composers for whom religious music was a major part of their output.

Stravinsky, for example, dedicated his "Symphony of Psalms" to "The Glory of God and the Boston Symphony Orchestra."

"You wonder," Harbison says with a smile, "if there should be a comma there."

Thus, in modern times, religious pieces of music are still being written, but unlike the liturgical works of Bach's time, they are usually not written directly for the Church audience or financially supported by the Church.

Or at least not until Harbison's phone rang in September.

Religion influential to Harbison

As a child, Harbison was exposed to religion not only through the usual avenues (e.g., going to church) but also in hearing about his parents' professional activities. His mother was a writer who worked for a magazine called "Presbyterian Life," and his father was a historian of the Reformation.

"The music that I gravitated to was Lutheran," Harbison says. "As a very young musician, the music I was most interested in was Bach, and later on, in college, Schutz."

When he came to Boston, he found spirituality at the Emmanuel Church, the home of the Cantata Singers, a group he directed from 1969 to 1973. Though the church is officially Episcopalian, they are "remarkably broad-ranging in terms of the kinds of ideas you can hear," Harbison says. "It pursues what I would call an inquiry rather than a dogma."

Yet Emmanuel is the exception, rather than the rule, Harbison says, in terms of the importance of music in the church today. Music "is so downgraded in the general scheme of church life around the world ... We've sort of gone from being a great hymn-singing, rabble-rousing country, with a grass-roots tradition," he says about the United States, to having "a very tepid idea of what sacred music is, with a few exceptions. I think gospel music does retain that sense of connection."

Even the Lutheran Church, whose founder, Martin Luther was a composer and a poet, has seen music diminish greatly in importance. "The Lutheran Church is not the vigorous preserver of Schutz and Bach ... Go to Lutheran churches now and you'll mostly hear guitar players."

Harbison's Vatican visit

All of these trends make Harbison that much more excited to have been given the opportunity to engage in a musical dialogue with the religious leaders at the Vatican.

Dialogue is an interesting choice of word, because oftentimes patrons have unreasonable expectations of the composers whom they commission. As an aside, Harbison recounts a story in which members of the New York Bar Association walked out on the premiere of a piece their organization had commissioned Harbison to write, as both the music and the selection of text was jarring to their ears.

Will the papal audience react in a similarly visceral way to "Abraham"?

"In the dialogue of the kind that the pope is reopening here," Harbison says, "we have to address the idea that the composer reserves the right to expose listeners to unfamiliar experiences. They're not willy-nilly, random ones — those can be saved for one's home, but they are perhaps going to be outside the experience of the listener, and they may be as much of a bridge towards some spiritual world as very familiar ones."

"For anyone with a sense of history, you would feel ... a great sense of opportunity and fascination that the leader of an institution as powerful as this one is willing and able to engage in a dialogue about aesthetics, or even says that music is an important element in worship and the experience of religion."

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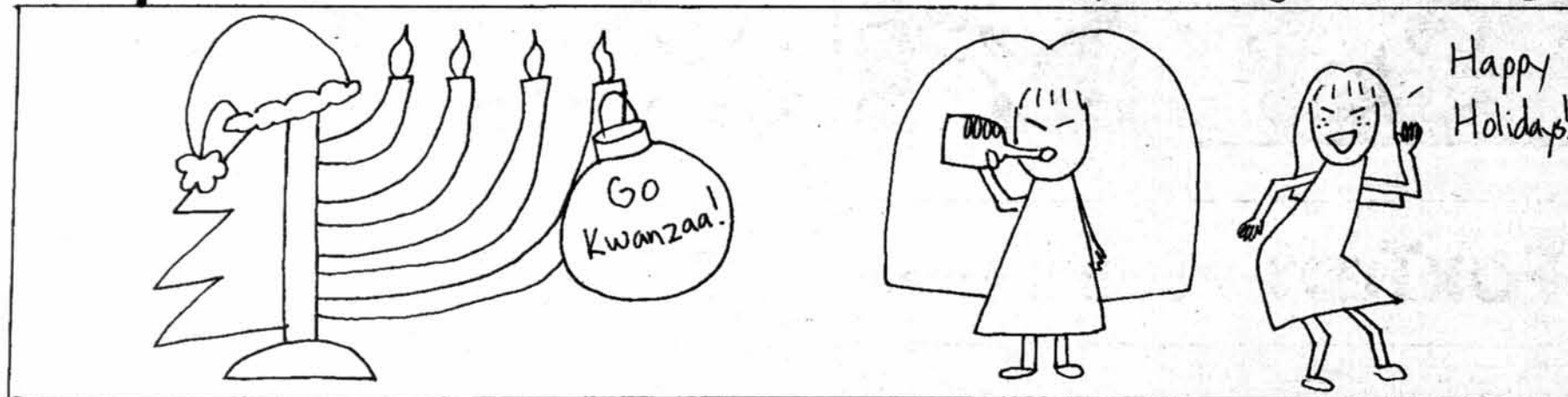
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FUN PAGES

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Hay Fever

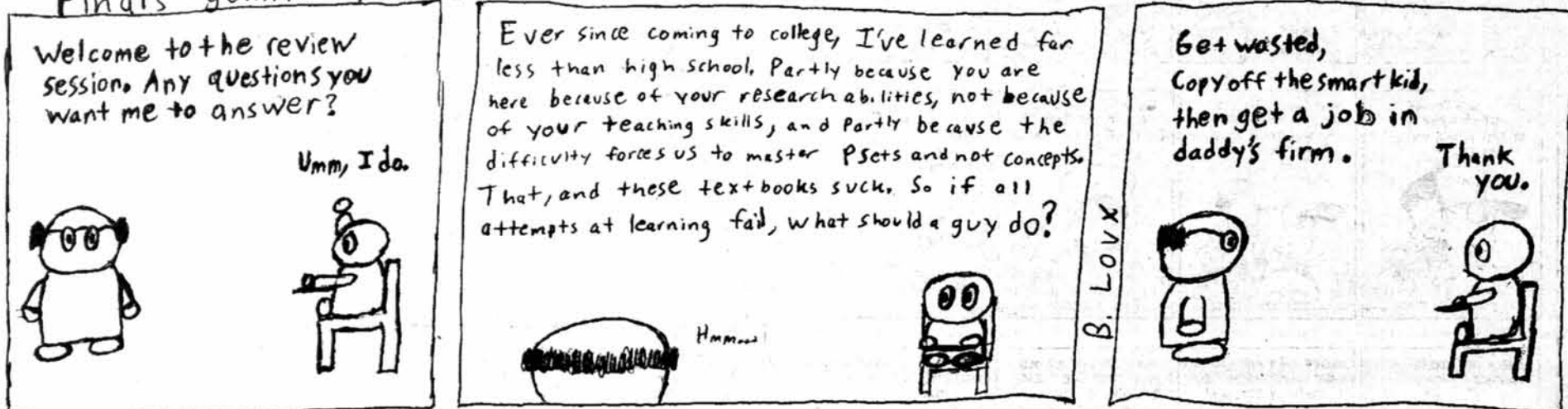
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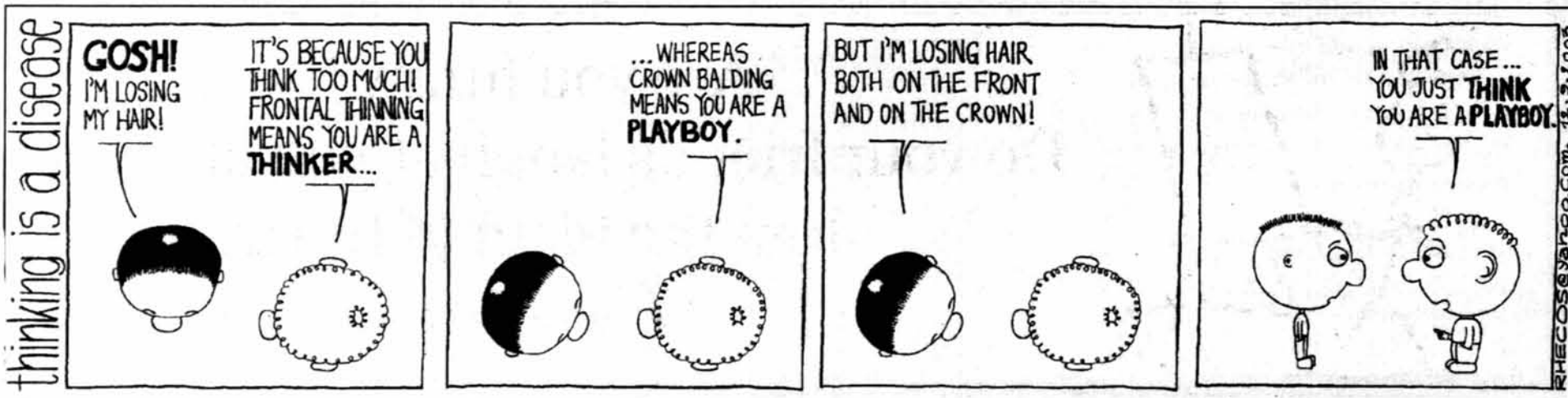
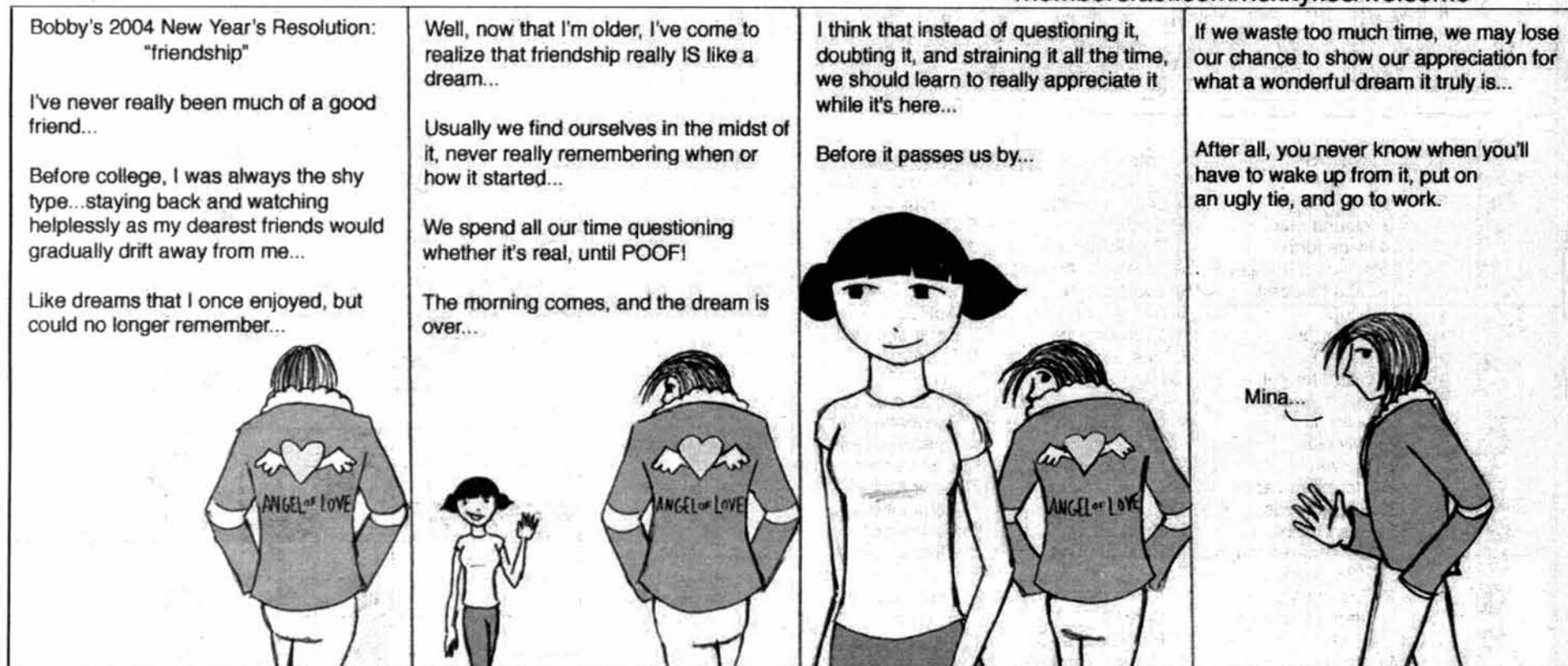
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PILED HIGHER AND DEEPER



HERE'S YOUR COFFEE, CECILIA...

OH, THANK GOODNESS, JUST IN TIME...

AAAAHHHH... GOOD OL' JAVA... I CAN ALREADY FEEL THE CAFFEINE VAPORS COURSE THROUGH MY VEINS... REINVIGORATING ME...

I AM PASSING OUT... THIS IS JUST WHAT I NEED...

UH, CECILIA, YOU DO KNOW THAT'S DECAF, RIGHT?

PPFFFFTH!!

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FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

YOU DID ALL THE CHRISTMAS CARDS WITHOUT ME?! THINK OF IT AS YOUR EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFT.

ROGER, HALF THESE ADDRESSES ARE WRONG! YOU MUST'VE USED AN OLD LIST!

OOPS.

SHE SAID THAT WAS MY EARLY CHRISTMAS GIFT. SHE LET YOU LIVE. I'M IMPRESSED.

WHO WANTS TO SEE ME PUT 10 SQUIRTS OF HOT SAUCE ON MY TACO?

WHO WANTS TO SEE ME PUT 20 SQUIRTS OF HOT SAUCE ON MY TACO?

WHO WANTS TO SEE ME PUT THIS ENTIRE BOTTLE OF HOT SAUCE ON MY TACO?

AH, THE TEARS OF A CLOWN. PETER, SUCKING ON THE ICE MAKER WON'T GET IT TO WORK ANY FASTER.

CHECK OUT THESE PANTS I BOUGHT!

AREN'T THEY HIP?! AREN'T THEY COOL?! AREN'T THEY TOTALLY STYLIN'?

HEY, I'VE GOT AN OLD PAIR JUST LIKE THESE! I SHOULD DIG THEM UP SO WE CAN GO AROUND LIKE TWINS!

WELCOME TO THE DARK SIDE OF RETRO. WANT SOME PANTS?

Dilbert

by Scott Adams

I'VE NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE, BUT MAY I HAVE YOUR PHONE NUMBER?

HOME PHONE... CELL PHONE... WORK PHONE... HOME E-MAIL... WORK E-MAIL... OTHER HOME E-MAIL... PERSONAL WEB SITE.

...AND IF THAT FAX MACHINE IS OUT OF PAPER, TRY THE ONE DOWN THE HALL, BUT LEAVE ME A VOICE MAIL IF YOU DO.

WAKE UP AND TRUDGE TO WORK!

EARN MONEY SO I CAN LEAVE ON THE LIGHTS IN EVERY ROOM.

YOUR SHOWER IS READY. I TURNED IT ON LAST NIGHT.

IT'S NICE TO BE RETIRED. I'LL DO A-A-ANYTHING I WANT TO DO ALL DAY LONG.

I GUESS YOU'LL BE BANGING YOUR HEAD AGAINST A WALL TODAY, TRYING TO EARN MONEY FOR THE SOCIAL INFRA-STRUCTURE.

DO YOU EVER FEEL GUILTY? IS IT A WARM, TINGLY SENSATION THAT MAKES YOU WAG?

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 10

ACROSS

1 Pianist Myra

5 Actor Dillon

9 Wound marks

14 Issue forth

15 Arthur of tennis

16 Cold-blooded

17 Anger

18 Suffix for diseases

19 Diameter halves

20 Peter, Paul & Mary hit

23 "My Gal _"

24 Viewed

25 Plane ride: abbr.

28 Rest periods

31 Responsible

36 More than enough

38 NBA team

40 Everglades wader

41 Attempt to calm down

44 Violin maker of note

note

45 " _ Gynt"

46 Latvian capital

47 Coats

49 Promising clue

51 Adams or Knotts

52 Zodiac lion

54 Set of tools

56 1995 Angela Bassett movie

65 Playwright Chekhov

66 Celeste or Ian

67 PC operator

68 Put into words

69 One-celled plant

70 Chinese dynasty

71 Stacks

72 Have in mind

73 Blocks of paper

DOWN

1 Parsley or sage

2 Runner Zatopek

3 Farm tower

4 Goulash and ragout

5 Continent

6 Italian wine center

7 Like a wafer

8 Aptitude determiners

9 Even more eccentric

10 Bird's crop

11 Autobahn auto

12 Keep in check

13 Lost traction

21 Actor McKellen

22 Actor Linden

25 Causing death

26 Alpaca cousin

27 Hungarian wine

29 Look furtively

30 Harden

32 Ripening agent

33 Interwoven locks

34 Fired

35 Coen brother

37 Henri's head

39 "Pursuit of the Graf _"

42 TWA and El Al

43 Conductor's assistant

48 D.C. VIP

50 New Jersey fort

53 Old Irish alphabet

55 Blow with a blunt object

56 Flying stinger

57 Part of ABM

58 Slanted type: abbr.

59 Carry

60 Lacquered metalware

61 Gymnast Korbut

62 Home to billions

63 Advance

64 Joule fractions

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Events Calendar

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Tuesday, December 9

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Program on the Pharmaceutical Industry Conference. Pharmacogenomics, Drug Development and the Cost of Health Care Conference New technologies are shifting the terrain of drug discovery and development. The world of healthcare is undergoing the first part of a major revolution. What will the future look like? This symposium, co-sponsored by the MIT Program on the Pharmaceutical Industry, bring together distinguished representatives from industry, science, government, and academia to explore this revolution and the key challenges facing scientists and the pharmaceutical industry. Will the tremendous advances in science and technology that have unfolded in recent years serve the goal of greater human health? Free to MIT community (Advanced Registration Required). Room: E51. Sponsor: Office of Corporate Relations/ILP. MIT Program on the Pharmaceutical Industry.

10:00 a.m. – Admissions Information Session. Groups over 15 people need to make special reservations. Free. Room: 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. – MIT/WHOI Joint Program Coffee-Donut-Bagel Hour. An opportunity for MIT and WHOI based students to interact on the days when Joint Program classes are held in Woods Hole. Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the semester. Room: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Student Center, 3rd Floor, Clark Laboratory South. Sponsor: WHOI Student Organization. GSC, EGSA.

10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Chanukah Sale. Sale will feature menorahs, candles, dreidels, and other holiday items. Free. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Mac OS X Quick Start. For newcomers to Mac OS X, preview some of its useful features – network and printer setup and file management with the OS X Finder. Take a look at applications that run “native” in OS X. Get answers to your questions about OS X and updates on the status of support for OS X at MIT. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. – Biomedical Engineering Initiatives at the National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. Free. Room: Bartos Theatre, Media Lab. Sponsor: HST.

12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. – Future Directions in Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering Research. Dr. Pettigrew, the first Director of the new National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering will share his perspectives on national priorities in biomedical research. Free. Room: Bartos Theater, MIT Media Lab, E15. Sponsor: HST, HST Biomedical Engineering Seminar Series.

2:00 p.m. – Admissions Information Session. Free. Room: 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. – Renormalization Group Approach to Global Asymptotic Analysis. Free. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Physical Mathematics Seminar.

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. – MiTea Time – Culture Exchange – English Chinese Class. Our free English class is good for newcomers to get started on their English conversations in a very friendly environment. It is also good for people who have an interest in learning the American culture, American lifestyles, etc. Lots of interesting topics and discussions will be a good start for your English. Feel free to come and have wonderful discussions with our native English speakers. Refreshments will be served. Free. Room: 5-134. Sponsor: Chinese Student and Scholar Association, Graduate Student Council. MIT CSSA & GSC.

3:30 p.m. – Re-Deeming Scripture: Women and Contemporary Midrash. An Afternoon Poetry Reading. Refreshments will be served. Free. Room: 14E-304. Sponsor: Women’s Studies Program. Writing Program.

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – Arthur D. Little Seminar Series: John Tully, Yale University. Physical Chemistry Seminar Series MIT Western Hemisphere Project: Open Meeting. We hold informal sessions throughout the year to discuss events in the news and to work on Project activities. If you want to just chat about these things, or if you want to join in and help organize, we’d love for you to attend. Free. Room: 4-231. Sponsor: MIT Western Hemisphere Project.

7:00 p.m. – MIT Chamber Music Society Concerts. The Chamber Music Society, coordinated by Prof. Marcus Thompson, is comprised of students selected by audition to study & perform chamber music literature. Check online calendar link below for further info and confirmation. Free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts Section.

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – Boston Voice User Group. Free. Room: 2-147. Sponsor: Information Systems, MIT User Groups.

7:45 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. – Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study. Currently studying “Experiencing God” (Blackaby and King). Free. Room: Eastgate. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. – Contra Dance for All. Hot Contra Caller: Ann Cowan. Live Music: Tea Party Dance with a partner (we’ll provide) and a group to jazz live music. All dances taught; all skill levels welcome. Light refreshments are served at the break halfway through. MIT students free; other students \$3; non-students \$5. Room: Stratton Student Center: Lobdell Dining Hall. Sponsor: Folk Dance Club. Music for Robin.

8:00 p.m. – Student Pugwash Movie Series. Issues of science, technology and society as explored through film fiction. Free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: MIT Chapter of Student Pugwash USA.

8:00 p.m. – Francophone movie. Beginning of the francophone movie series: “Un air de famille” (Klapisch, 1996), with English subtitles. Free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: GSC Funding Board, Club Francophone.

9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – LIVEmusic@theEAR. Dan. Free. Room: The Thirsty Ear Pub. Sponsor: The Thirsty Ear Pub.

Wednesday, December 10

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Program on the Pharmaceutical Industry Conference. Free to MIT community (Advanced Registration Required). Room: E51. Sponsor: Office of Corporate Relations/ILP. MIT Program on the Pharmaceutical Industry.

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Student Art Association Holiday Ceramics Sale. Come see the latest creations at the Student Art Association’s annual holiday ceramics sale. A great opportunity to support student art at MIT while doing your holiday shopping. Free. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: Campus Activities Complex.

10:00 a.m. – Admissions Information Session. Free. Room: 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. – Working Committee Meeting. Free. Room: 68-121. Sponsor: EHS.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – ITAG Lunch Time Seminar. ITAG Lunch Time Seminar. Free. Room: W20-20 Chimneys. Sponsor: InfoSys.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Orientation to Computing at MIT. This seminar provides basic information about the MIT computing environment, presented in language accessible to anyone. Topics include: help resources, supported operating systems, supported software and recommended hardware, the campus network (MITnet and more), security issues and how to address them, telephones and voice mail, computer-related health issues. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – Selective Sampling for Classification and Filtering. Free. Room: E25-401. Sponsor: ‘Brains and Machines’ Seminar Series, McGovern Institute. Dept. of Brain & Cognitive Sciences and CSAIL.

12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. – Gallery Talk: Light, Color, Place—Seeing Digitally and Photographically. In conjunction with her current photography exhibition, Knowing Where to Stand, Anne Whiston Spirn, MIT professor of architecture and planning, discusses the revolution in digital imaging and color printing. Visit <http://web.mit.edu/spirn/www/photo.htm>. Free Compton Gallery, MIT Campus, 77 Massachusetts Ave. Free. Room: Compton Gallery. Sponsor: MIT Museum.

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – PLC Toastmasters Meeting. Guests are always welcome at Toastmasters meetings! At Toastmasters, we improve our communication and leadership skills through prepared and impromptu speaking opportunities. Gain confidence as a public speaker and have fun at the same time! Free. Room: W89-305. Sponsor: Toastmasters, MIT Organization and Employee Development, Human Resources.

2:00 p.m. – Admissions Information Session. Free. Room: 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – String Theory Seminar. Statistics of String and M Theory Vacua. Free. Room: Center for Theoretical Physics. Sponsor: Laboratory for Nuclear Science.

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Introduction to LabVIEW and It’s uses at MIT. This talk will be given by John Callan of National Instruments. Several MIT uses of LabVIEW will also be discussed and demonstrated. LabVIEW is a graphical development environment with built-in functionality for simulation, data acquisition, instrument control, measurement analysis, and data presentation. Free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Academic Computing.

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – Special Joint LNS/CTP seminar. Discovery of the Ks1_32 new pentaquark states at CERN: can the correct pentaquark model already be extracted? Free. Room: Center for Theoretical Physics. Sponsor: Laboratory for Nuclear Science.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – HPCEs Seminar. A Method for Staffing Large Call Centers Based on Stochastic Fluid Models. Free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Singapore-MIT Alliance/HPCEs.

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – spouses&partners@mit weekly meeting: Annual Holiday Party. Bring a sweet or savory treat to share. Students, spouses, and children welcome. Free. Room: Ashdown House - West Dining Room. Sponsor: spouses&partners@mit.

4:00 p.m. – Environmental Chemistry and Biology (and more...) Seminar. What have viruses got to do with photosynthesis? Free. Room: NE20-285. Sponsor: Civil and Environmental Engineering.

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. – Turan-type results for Topological Graphs. Refreshments at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2-349. Free. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Nanostructures Seminar Series. Properties of Magnetic Nanostructures - Rings, Bars and Dots. Free. Room: 34-401. Sponsor: Nanostructures Laboratory. MIT Tiny Tech Club and TechnLink.

5:00 p.m. – MIT Chamber Music Society Concerts. The Chamber Music Society, coordinated by Prof. Marcus Thompson, is comprised of students selected by audition to study & perform chamber music literature. Check online calendar link below for further info and confirmation. Free. Room: Killian hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts section.

5:10 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. – Worship Service (Holy Communion). All students, staff, and faculty are welcome at our weekly worship service. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. – Activities Committee Meeting. Free. Room: 50-220. Sponsor: GSC Meetings.

5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – European Club End-of-Term Dessert Party. Come to enjoy delicious cakes, refreshing drinks and other desserts & candles! Enjoy these treats with other Euromembers’ and friends of the European Club in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Free. Room: Edgerton House. Sponsor: European Club, MIT, GSC Funding Board.

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – MISTI Holiday Party. Please join us at the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) Holiday Party! Good Food! Good Company! Much Fun! Free. Room: 10-105. Sponsor: Center for International Studies, MISTI.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study. Come join us for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship! We are currently studying the book of Acts. Free. Room: 66-369. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship, GSC Funding Board.

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Wednesday Night Dinner. Weekly dinner. Share a meal with a friend. For McCormick residents and friends on the guest list. \$6.50. Sponsor: McCormick Hall.

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – The Business of Gaming. Case: Turbine Entertainment Software: Jeff Anderson, President & CEO. Panel: David Solomon, CommonAngels, Andrew Graff, Allen & Gerristen and Mike Goodman, Yankee Group. Free with student ID. \$20 Forum Members, \$25 Non Members. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: MIT Enterprise Forum of Cambridge, Inc.

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Bible Study. Weekly Bible study held by the Baptist Student Fellowship. Free. Sponsor: Baptist Student Fellowship, Baptist Campus Ministry.

7:00 p.m. – MIT Chamber Music Society Concerts. The Chamber Music Society, coordinated by Prof. Marcus Thompson, is comprised of students selected by audition to study & perform chamber music literature. Check online calendar link below for further info and confirmation. Free. Room: Killian Hall. Sponsor: Music and Theater Arts.

7:00 p.m. – Varsity Men’s Ice Hockey vs. Central Connecticut. Free. Room: Johnson Athletic Center.

7:00 p.m. – Varsity Women’s Indoor Track vs. Springfield College. Free. Room: Johnson Athletic Center.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Chicks Make Flicks: Tupperware. Laurie Kahn-Leavitt showing her documentary “Tupperware,” which tells the history of the 1950s from the inside — and from the bottom up. Rare archival footage and fabulously funny stories are interwoven in this remarkable yarn of Brownie Wise, the self-taught saleswoman who built an empire out of bowls that burped. The film explores the lives of the Tupperware Ladies Brownie trained and inspired: lower middle-class women with few opportunities who were able to earn thousands, even millions, selling Tupperware in living rooms across the country. Free. Room: 4-270. Sponsor: Women’s Studies Program. Women in Film and Video New England.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Boston Macintosh User Group. Meeting of the Boston Macintosh User Group. Free. Room: E51-372. Sponsor: MIT User Groups.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Back Bay LISA. Meeting of the Back Bay LISA (Large Installation System Administration) User Group. Free. Room: E51-145. Sponsor: MIT User Groups.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Tech Model Railroad Club Meeting. This is an informal meeting when we design and build the layout and run trains. Visitors welcome. Students welcome to join. Free. Room: N52-118. Sponsor: Tech Model Railroad Club (TMRC).

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – Israeli Folk Dancing (participatory). Israeli Folk Dancing Early Teaching at 8 p.m., followed by teaching and requests until 11 p.m. Beginners are always welcome. Family dancing usually occurs from 7 - 8 p.m. each week. Great for kids of all ages! To confirm family dancing for a given week, and for up-to-date announcements about each week’s dance, see our Yahoo Group. Free for MIT students; donations welcome. Room: Lobby 13. Sponsor: Folk Dance Club.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – IFILM Film Seminar. Screening of a movie followed by a discussion. Light refreshments provided. More information (including movie titles) on our Web site. Free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: International Film Club, GSC Funding Board.

8:45 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. – Swing Dancing. Beginners welcome, no partner necessary. Free. Room: Student Center 2nd floor. Sponsor: Lindy Hop Society, GSC Funding Board.

Thursday, December 11

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. – MIT-NASA Workshop on Transformational Technologies. The purpose of this workshop is to enable NASA to identify highly innovative applications of emerging technologies to future space systems and architectures by invitation only. Room: MIT Student Center 3rd Floor. Sponsor: AeroAstro. The Advanced Systems Office in NASA’s Office of Space Flight.

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Student Art Association Holiday Ceramics Sale. Come see the latest creations at the Student Art Association’s annual holiday ceramics sale. A great opportunity to support student art at MIT while doing your holiday shopping. Free. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: Campus Activities Complex.

Events Calendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.

10:00 a.m. – Admissions Information Session. Free. Room: 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – BrioQuery 6 Quick Start. This quick start introduces you to the MIT Data Warehouse Web site and how to get authorized to access data. Pointers to instructions for downloading and installing BrioQuery will be given. You’ll take a tour of the BrioQuery 6 environment and tools. You’ll learn how to download and run an MIT standard report. BrioQuery version 6 features will be compared to version 5.5 and changes in the new version will be highlighted. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Systems.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – English Bible Class. You are welcome to attend this free Bible class led by Barbara Beevers of Baptist Campus Ministry. International spouses are welcome especially, but open to all. Come practice English, ask questions and make friends. Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Holiday Weight Gain: battling back! Do you think it’s inevitable that you’ll gain your usual five to ten pounds this holiday season? Are you looking for ways to fight back? Come to this session for tips on surviving holiday parties, preparing healthy holiday meals and desserts, finding time for exercise, and much more! Free. Room: 66-168. Sponsor: MIT Medical.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Free Conversational English Class. International students, scholars and spouses are welcome to attend a free conversational English class. Come exchange culture, learn about American culture and holidays and make lasting friends. Free. Room: W11 Board Room. Sponsor: Baptist Campus Ministry.

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. – Weight Watchers at Work! Room: Women’s Lounge - Room 8-219. Sponsor: Weight Watchers.

1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Rainbow Lounge Open. MIT’s resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgendered, and questioning members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours. Free. Room: 50-306. Sponsor: lgbt@mit.

2:00 p.m. – Admissions Information Session. Free. Room: 10-100. Sponsor: Information Center.

2:00 p.m. – Counting Critical Points and Vacua. Free. Room: 5-217. Sponsor: Mathematics, Department of, Special Lectures in Mathematics.

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – MIT Inventor’s Spotlight: Ambient Display Devices. Meet recent MIT alumnus Rahul Bhargava, inventor of a device that translates newswire stories into social commentary. See and hear Drums of War, and talk with the inventor about how ambient display technology is redefining our contact with large amounts of data. Free with MIT Museum admission. Room: MIT Museum, Sponsor: MIT Museum.

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Hydrology Seminar. Free. Room: NE20-285. Sponsor: Civil and Environmental Engineering, Parsons Lab (general). Rafael L. Bras, Elfatih Eltahir, Dara Entekhabi, Charles Harvey, Dennis McLaughlin.

4:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – Physics Colloquium: Donald Monroe, “The Schön Affair: Investigating Scientific Misconduct.” In the spring of 2002, Hendrik Schön appeared to be on a fast track to a Nobel Prize for his experiments in electrically conducting organic materials (although others were having difficulty reproducing his results). A few months later, his career was over and his work largely discredited, after an investigation panel found him guilty of scientific misconduct. Donald Monroe will describe his experiences as a member of that panel, the procedures that were followed, and the detailed evidence that compelled the panel to conclude that pervasive misconduct occurred. Free. Room: 10-250. Sponsor: Physics Department.

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Ignition Forum: BioMEMS. Deshpande Ignition Forum: Industry experts debate future market opportunities for technology. Followed by WineLink, in part sponsored by MIT TechnLink. Free. Room: 66-110. Sponsor: Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation.

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of Architecture and Construction. Free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: Student Pugwash USA, The MIT Chapter of, Students for Global Sustainability, LEF (Large Events Fund), Design that Matters. Engineers Without Frontiers.

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Weekly Grad Student Bible Study for

Absolute Beginners. Weekly informal Bible study for grad students; refreshments provided; lgbt welcome. Free. Room: W11-007. Sponsor: Lutheran-Episcopal Ministry.

6:00 p.m. – The Phantom of the ‘English’ Bauhaus: Modernist Artists and Architects in Britain, 1937-1951. HTC Forum. Free. Room: 3-133. Sponsor: History, Theory and Criticism of Architecture and Art.

6:03 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Weekly meetings. Regular meeting of the core group at muddy charles. Free. Room: Muddy Charles. Sponsor: TechnLink.

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – Holiday Celebration and Networking Reception. Join us for an evening of inspiration and holiday cheer at this annual, members only event. The program will begin with Dr. Judith Gwathmey, Founder, CEO/President and Chief Scientific Officer of Gwathmey, Inc., a pre-clinical research company offering animal studies and in vitro assays for drug development. Dr. Gwathmey will share some of her experiences in transitioning from clinician to successful entrepreneur, and will offer insights into what it takes to become an accomplished business woman. After the presentation, indulge in some delicious appetizers and get ready for a game of WEST, our version of the old favorite Bingo. Whether you’re developing, practicing or polishing your networking skills, a round of WEST will surely encourage you to meet new people. You won’t want to miss this special evening! Advanced registration by December 9th: \$20 On-site registration: \$30. Room: Deloitte & Touche, 200 Berkeley St, Boston, MA. Sponsor: Women Entrepreneur in Science and Technology.

7:00 p.m. – Sushi Study Break with Queer Women, Friends, and Questioning Women. Chat, play games, chill, eat, relax with great queer women and friends in a friendly, relaxing, positive, open environment. Free. Room: Rainbow Lounge, Walker, 3rd Floor. Sponsor: lgbt@mit, QWILLTS.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Once Upon a Time in Mexico. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study. Come join us for Bible study, prayer, and fellowship! We are currently studying the book of Ephesians. Free. Room: NW86-560. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship, GSC Funding Board.

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – Chess Club Meeting. A prominent player of the club will talk about some ideas in the opening. Then it will be designated time for play! Free. Room: Student Center, PDR 1&2. Sponsor: Chess Club.

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – IFILM Film Seminar - “El robo mas grande jamas contado,” by Daniel Monzon (2002). Directed by Daniel Monzon. Free. Room: 4-237. Sponsor: International Film Club, GSC Funding Board.

8:00 p.m. – Rambax. Dance Party with Lamine Touré, master Senegalese drummer. Born in 1973, Lamine Touré comes from a long line of griots, a caste of musicians and oral historians among the Wolof people of Senegal. He received his early training as part of his family’s drum troupe and formed his first group while still a teenager. After playing with various groups, he joined Alioune Mbaye Nder et le Setsima Group in 1997 and has toured extensively in Senegal and throughout Europe and North America. Known for his ability to fuse traditional rhythms with jazz, rock and Afro-pop, Touré showcases his musical talent and versatility on a wide range of percussion instruments, from sabar and djembe to tama (talking drum), as well as in taasu (rhythmic poetry similar to rap). Free. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Rambax, MIT.

8:00 p.m. – “ALCESTIS.” Written by Euripides, adapted by Ted Hughes, directed by Bob Mussett. \$10 General Admission, \$8 MIT staff/faculty, senior citizens, and other students with ID, \$6 MIT/Wellesley students with ID. Room: Kresge Little Theatre (lower level of Kresge Auditorium, building W16). Sponsor: MIT Community Players.

8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Underwater Hockey. The MIT SCUBA Club invites all to participate in Underwater Hockey. Underwater Hockey is an exciting co-ed sport played at the bottom of a pool with a short stick and a lead puck. Free. Room: z-pool. Sponsor: Scuba Club, GSC Funding Board. Scuba Club, Undergraduate Association.

10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. – Once Upon a Time in Mexico. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

You are cordially invited to
an Advent service of
Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 10
5:15 in the MIT Chapel

Informal Caroling to follow in Lobby 7
followed by a sumptuous dinner in
W11

Sponsored by the Lutheran-Episcopal
Ministry at MIT
<http://web.mit.edu/lem/www/>

FEATURES

Positive Sinking Wrap It Up and Spit It Out

By Akshay Patil
COLUMNIST

Ashkay,

Here is some alliteration for you: "...about absolutely anything AT ALL amusing..." Come on, was it all that hard?

—Abe

You know, I'm usually a pretty easy guy to please. I was all ready to like you: you sent e-mail to *sinking@* and you seem genuinely dedicated to the task of making this a better column. This love, this adoration, all of it, is lost because you spelled my name wrong.

Send me insults, tell me the column sucks, throw feces from your roof at your children, but for heaven's sake, don't spell my name wrong.

Is it really that hard? I mean, you probably skim over it once a week as you throw darts at my column. Or maybe you could have done a little fingering action with my last name to set things straight. Or, in a moment of lazy hesitation, you could have just addressed me as "Positive Sinking." "You there," "what's-your-face," or something equally witty.

But no. You had to brazenly type my name with two — count them, two — inversions (you know, the number of swaps bubble sort would have to do in order to rearrange your eye-sore to its proper form... ok, that's not funny, but let's see you be funny after large amounts of coding. It's not easy, lemme tell ya. You start thinking things like "my @sort-ed1 = sort {sigComp(\$a, \$b)} @{(shift)};" are terribly clever when, in fact, they aren't. Anyways, having amused the grand

total of three readers who actually understand that, let's get back to the berating).

Actually, I don't feel like ragging on you any more. Because deep down, I'm a nice person. And even deeper down, I'm not wearing underwear.

While you are the first to e-mail *sinking@* in a dyslexic state, you are certainly not the first to e-mail or refer to me by that abominable nominal permutation. Just don't do it again. No tote/plastic bag for you. Moving on...

Sir Akshay,

What does "no bones about it" mean? Do you think it has anything to do with Yale and/or the teen slasher craze of the 90s?

—Tchi

Wow, I'm definitely liking this e-mail better. Not only is the name right, but I'm "sir" me. Makes me feel like spelling things British.

Not that I don't already, but usually word processors change it back into the traditional American English before I even move on the next word. Because I don't feel like turning auto-correct off, all you readers at home are going to have to use your imagination to figure out how half of these words were spelt (ohhh, you like that? archaic British spelling of "spelled," that's the sort of witty tricks that don't win you anything, really) before my computer decided I was illiterate.

And after that, try crossing your eyes, and the 3-D pen-

guin will pop out of this column's text. Isn't technology amazing?

So I was sitting on the john the other day thinking to myself "hmm... that guy that invented the toilet partition must be a millionaire." And then I thought "but maybe there's a better way to organize toilets in the bathroom, like, change the way we partition them. Maybe we could stack em?" I think I got a multi-million dollar idea here. What do you think?

—The Dude

As you're probably well aware, many of history's greatest ideas were thought on the toilet. Einstein was particularly well known for his prolonged and frequent bowel movements. The guy who came up with sliced bread? That's right, he was a toilet tester. You could be next, my friend. Pursue your dream, I tell you. I'd offer to help you, but I don't want to be around when something goes wrong and the you-know-what hits the fan. And by fan, I mean the poor sap in the stall underneath.

Well, that's my momma. Join us next term for more sinking in the positive direction. And while you're eating, sleeping, globe trotting, mountain skiing, bridge diving, sun soaking, or bathroom going, think of all (one) of us here at *sinking@mit.edu* and send us an e-mail about whatever it is that's tickling you in the back of your head... right next to the left ear, no no lower... to the left... harder... oh yeah, that's the stuff.

The Production Department's Word of the Day

Ogham: An alphabetic system of inscribed notches for vowels and lines for consonants used to write Old Irish

join@the-tech.mit.edu

The Sloan Subject Prioritization System Bidding Dates for Spring, 2004 Classes

<http://sloanbid.mit.edu>

Leave password field blank, create new password under 'Personal Information'

Institute-wide bidding for Sloan subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 19

Closes 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 31

Waitlist-Only Round for closed Sloan subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 7

Closes 3:00 p.m., Monday, February 2

Waitlists for closed Sloan classes are part of the Course Bidding System, beginning in the Institute-wide Round.

Successful bids appear on your Registration Form on February 2 and will be posted on the bidding website as of January 7 -- write down your password to check results!

SPORTS

MIT Fencing Scores Against BC, Others

By Lynn Wang

TEAM MEMBER

On Sunday, Nov. 23, the MIT fencing team gave an outstanding performance at Boston College, going up against the NCAA schools St. John's University, Brandeis University, Vassar College, and Boston College.

The women's team achieved clean victories against Brandeis, Vassar, and BC with scores of 16-11, 20-7, and 20-7, respectively. Despite the loss against St. John's, our women had several great moments. Particularly, Captain Priscilla del Castillo '04 scored a great bout against St. John's sabrist, Kasia Wieronski. The score was tied at 4-4 when del Castillo made a beautiful attack in preparation to win the bout. The rest of women's sabre followed suit with great showings of their own, especially Shauna Jin '06 who won eight of her bouts on Sunday. Women's epee also

made a stunning showing, winning six of their nine bouts against St. John's. Special props to Christa Bierber '07 for stepping up the challenge when the team was short a player.

The men's fencing team found formidable opponents in St. John's and Brandeis while scoring clear victories against BC and Vassar. Michael Pihulic '04 led on the sabre squad, scoring eight bouts for the team. Likewise, squad leader Vincent Chen '05 guided men's foil with six victories. In two intense bouts, Vincent Chen and Jason Chen '07 sealed the victory against BC by defeating two tough opponents. "I'm happy that the foil squad has improved markedly since our performance last year, becoming much more competitive in historically strong New England foil," said Vincent Chen.

This meet totals the season score to 8-1 for the women and 6-2 for the men.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, Dec. 10



7 p.m., Varsity Women's Indoor Track, Springfield College
7 p.m., Varsity Men's Ice Hockey, Central Connecticut



Problems With the BCS Playoff System: Testing the Champions

By Yong-yl Zhu

COLUMBIST

I know that the BCS system is not perfect. The real question is whether there is any way to make it close to perfect.

Column

For those of you not aware, BCS stands for Bowl Championship Series, a system designed to find the top two Division I-A College Football teams in the nation. It takes into account polls of both Associated Press writers and coaches, polls from seven computer ranking methods, number of losses, strength of schedule, and whether or not a team has beaten other teams in the top ten. The computers then sum all the numbers from each individual section and create a total. The teams with the two lowest totals play for the national title game.

This system was originally installed in 1998 to settle disputes between the Associated Press and the coaches and to determine, via a set system, who should play for the national title and who gets the Sears Trophy. However, since then, we've come to some very close calls. In fact, two of the last three championship games have not come without much debate.

In 2000, Florida State lost one game all year, to Miami, who had also only lost one game. In fact, Miami was voted to be the sec-

ond-ranked team in both of the human polls, while FSU was third. However, when the computers cranked out the numbers, FSU got to play in the title game and not Miami, creating a possibility for a split national championship if FSU and Miami had both won their bowl games. Obviously, the BCS needed to be fixed, and it was.

Then, in 2001, Nebraska lost in the last game of its regular season to Colorado. Thus, they did not get a chance to go to the Big XII Championship Game and did not win their conference. Colorado won the conference and was voted highly by the human polls. However, once again, when the computers did their job, Nebraska beat out Colorado by the slimmest of margins to get a chance to play Miami in the Rose Bowl for the National Championship. Again, talk of fixing the BCS was in the works.

What many are looking to do is to implement a system where several of the top teams get a chance to play in a playoff, much like that of the National Football League. This way, the best team in the country can truly be tested before being crowned, and nobody will have qualms about voting for a particular national champion. However, is there really a solution that will appease everyone?

Although this system would

allow more teams to have a chance to play for the national title and for the best team to be determined, it would also cause other frenzies. If we take a look at the college basketball system, there are 65 teams that get into the tournament and there are still people that complain. When there is a cutoff somewhere, the people right on the borderline will object. Sure, the more teams one includes in a tourney, the less complaining there exists, but what does that accomplish?

The systems that we create are quite artificial to begin with. There will not necessarily always be two teams that stand out. Take this year, for example. It had appeared that Oklahoma, USC, and LSU were all great teams. But who is to say that Michigan or Texas or even Florida State were not good enough? Where does the line get drawn? I think that the most important thing to do is to have a system and stick with it. The BCS has given the title to the undefeated team every year thus far. Granted that will change this year, but it's a system. It will work to the best of its abilities. We can either sit back and complain every time something goes wrong, or we can simply take it as it comes. The NFL has a system; the NBA has a system; the Final Four has a system; at least for now, the BCS has a system.

Nightline: DEF TUV TUV OPER OPER (x3-8800)

MIT Libraries

GOOD LUCK ON EXAMS!

Hayden Library will be open 24 hours to the MIT Community from midnight December 10 through the end of exams, December 19.

WINTER VACATION HOURS 2003-2004

Saturday, December 20, 2003 - Sunday, January 4, 2004

Barker, Dewey, Hayden (Humanities and Science), and Rotch* Libraries

Sat, Dec 20	11am-6pm
Sun, Dec 21	1-6pm
Mon, Dec 22 - Wed, Dec 24	9am-5pm
Thu, Dec 25 - Sun, Dec 28	closed
Mon, Dec 29 - Wed, Dec 31	9am-5pm
Thu, Jan 1 - Sun, Jan 4	closed

*Please note: Rotch Library will be closed Sat, Dec 20, and Sun, Dec 21.

24-Hour Study Room (Hayden Library)

5pm Wed, Dec 24 - 9am Mon, Dec 29 closed
5pm, Wed, Dec 31 - 9am Mon, Jan 5 closed
All other times, open 24 hours

Aeronautics and Astronautics, Lewis Music, Lindgren and Schering-Plough Libraries and Rotch Visual Collections

Sat, Dec 20 - Sun, Dec 21	closed
Mon, Dec 22 - Tue, Dec 23	9am-5pm
Wed, Dec 24	9am-noon
Thu, Dec 25 - Sun, Jan 4	closed

Institute Archives and Special Collections

Sat, Dec 20 - Sun, Dec 21	closed
Mon, Dec 22 - Wed, Dec 24	10am-12:30pm and 1:30-4pm
Thu, Dec 25 - Sun, Jan 4	closed

Document Services and RetroSpective Collection**

Sat, Dec 20 - Sun, Dec 21	closed
Mon, Dec 22 - Wed, Dec 24	9am-5pm
Thu, Dec 25 - Sun, Jan 4	closed

**Please call RSC before visiting (617.253.7040)

Check out library hours anytime online at <http://libraries.mit.edu/about/hours>

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IAP 2004 at the Media Lab

email maku@mit.edu for more information